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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Member Leaders Deliver Speeches at Summit

Iraq's Saddam Husayn

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[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at the opening of the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Brother heads of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and members of the ACC Supreme Council, brother King Husayn Ibn-Talal, brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; gentlemen: My greetings to you. We meet today in the Arab city of Amman, which is noble by its people and government officials headed by our noble and brave Arab brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal. By our meeting today we inaugurate the second session of our council, just as we inaugurated the first session in Baghdad and followed it up by meetings in Alexandria and Sanaa.

In this part of Arabdom, where we are enjoying kind, brotherly hospitality among our kinfolk and brothers in blood, Arabism, and common destiny, we have come to carry out a brotherly, pan-Arab role under a formula that has been willed by God and accepted by the righteous sons of this nation. It is a collective, quadripartite formula, unlike those known to the Arab League, bilateral relations, or any other relations established among Arabs under different names in the past.

The first year in the life of our council was a year of foundation and the establishment of the main bases and frameworks for the various fields of cooperation, coordination, and integration among our countries. That year was full of meetings and fruitful achievements. We are entering the second year of the Council with this meeting today in Amman and we have great hopes of continuing the march in accordance with the set objectives. We greatly hope that through the determination of His Majesty King Husayn and his brothers in the Jordanian Government, we will continue this march with further determination and resolution to realize even more achievements.

Perhaps the foremost which we hope to achieve in the current phase is to turn the steps we have taken and the agreements we have signed into tangible facts that can be felt by the people in our countries. Feeling the positive effects and benefits of these steps and agreements will increase our people's enthusiasm for and confidence in the council and its pan-Arab objectives.

Brothers, when we meet in Amman, influenced by pan-Arab slogans, sentiments, and aspirations—after all, this is what unites Arabs everywhere, represents their common aspirations, and makes our meeting here possible, useful, and on the right track—I say, when we meet in Amman, where we can see the bright lights of holy Jerusalem, brotherly and pan-Arab duty makes it incumbent upon us at the outset of this meeting to extend our greetings to the struggling people of Palestine, and to also extend our greetings and gratitude to our brothers in Jordan for their kind hospitality and warm reception which, along with their other kind deeds, affirm their true devotion to Arabism and its objectives.

Despite the difficulty of finding a closer vantage point from which to view the lights of Jerusalem, we see that city from Baghdad through our faithful, penetrating eyes, which have plenty of room for Jerusalem—which, as you well know, has been the scene of great Arab sacrifices and glories, making its name evoke only good memories. We can see Jerusalem from anywhere, no matter how far from that city, because Jerusalem brings out the good things in our hearts. So, the line of sight between us and Jerusalem is straight, thereby shortening the distance between us and that city, and in fact between that city and any Arab, Muslim, or Christian among the sons of Arabism. This makes Jerusalem very close. Thus, the signs on the path of liberating Jerusalem are clear and remain unobliberated by the vicissitudes of time, God willing.

Palestine was usurped through deliberate planning, and it can only be restored through deliberate planning backed by determination to achieve justice. The struggler sons of Palestine have proved to be an example of determination and readiness for sacrice. The loss of Palestine was not essentially due to the Zionists' faith in the Zionist cause, but due to the Arabs' abandonment of the Arab cause. It was also not essentially due to Zionist strength, but to Arab weakness. Now that the Arabs have realized—through different factors and reasons, including their triumph over their enemies and the enemies of God on the eastern front and the heroic stand of the people of the deadly stones—that they are capable of taking action, then Palestine will return. Light will chase out darkness and the banners of justice shall fly over holy Jerusalem, God willing.

Brothers: One of the most important and prominent characteristics of this meeting, discussion, and relationship among a small number of Arab League members—as is the case with our meeting today—is that this small number gives us a better chance for analysis and dialogue in a manner that enables us to forge a common stance and a single viewpoint. I think we all agree that our meeting faces a special task of priority, which is indisputable; that is, the discussion and analysis of the changes in the international arena and their repercussions on our countries and the Arab nation in particular, and the world in general. This is in addition to the old and new threats to our pan-Arab security. For, since our meeting in Baghdad last February, many phenomena

and developments have emerged in the international arena. Some of these are natural, and considered to be recurrent situations that we are familiar with, and some are unfamiliar. To describe some developments as unfamiliar is not only attributable to these developments in themselves, but is also due to their effect on a region that might reflect on the whole globe, positively or negatively. The effect of what happens here or there in all the spots of the globe is no longer confined to a narrow space; and because the responsibility of enjoying what is positive or taking measures and precautions against what is negative is no longer confined to the setting of these events, but transcends to nations, whether big or small, it is our duty to study these phenomena and their causes. After we discover the causes, we should interact with the positive aspects so that we can benefit from them. On the other hand, we should take precautions against what is negative through joint positions that will allow the positive aspects to dominate over the negative ones.

Since it is difficult in a meeting such as this to deal with all that is negative or positive in international developments during 1989 and prior to then, and during the period from the beginning of 1990, you might share my opinion that discussions should deal with the most urgent and important of these issues and within the limits of the time allowed us.

Among the most important developments since the international conflict in World War II has been the fact that some countries which used to enjoy broad international influence, such as France and Britain, have declined, while the influence and impact of two countries expanded until they became the two superpowers among the countries of the world—I mean the United States and the Soviet Union. Of course, with these results, two axis have developed: the Western axis under the leadership of the United States, with its known capitalist approach and its imperialist policy; or the East bloc under the leadership of the Soviet Union and its communist philosophy.

Among the results of World War II: The Zionist state has become a reality, and the original owners of the land, the Palestinians, have become refugees. While the imperialist Western world helped the expansionist scheme and aggression of the Zionist entity in 1967, the communist bloc sided with the Arabs in the concept of balance of interests in the context of the global competition between the two blocs, and sought to secure footholds for the East Bloc against the Western interests in the Arab homeland. The East bloc, led by the USSR, supported the Arabs' basic rights, including their rights in the Arab-Zionist conflict. The global policy continued on the basis of the existence of two poles that were balanced in term of force. They are the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR.

And suddenly, the situation changed in a dramatic way. The USSR turned to tackle its domestic problems after relinquishing the process of continuous conflict and its slogans. The USSR shifted from the balanced position with the United States in a practical manner, although it has not acknowledged this officially so far. The USSR went to nurse the wounds that were inflicted on it as a result of the principles and the mistaken policy it followed for such a long time, and as a result of the wave of change it embarked on, which began to depart from the charted course. It has become clear to everyone that the United States has emerged in a superior position in international politics. This superiority will be demonstrated in the U.S. readiness to play such a role more than in the predicted guarantees for its continuation.

We believe that the world can fill the vacuum resulting from the recent changes and find a new balance in the global arena by developing new perspectives and reducing or adding to this or that force. The forces that laid the ground for filling the vacuum and for the emergence of the two superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR, after World War II at the expense of France, Britain, and Germany can develop new forces, which we expect will be in Europe and Japan. America will lose its power just as quickly as it gained it by frightening Europe, Japan, and other countries through the continuous hinting at the danger of the USSR and communism. The United States will lose its power as the fierce competition for gaining the upper hand between the two superpowers and their allies recedes.

However, we believe that the U.S. will continue to depart from the restrictions that govern the rest of world throughout the next five years until new forces of balance are formed. Moreover, the undisciplined and irresponsible behavior will engender hostility and grudges if it embarks on rejected stupidities.

Given the relative erosion of the role of the Soviet Union as the key champion of the Arabs in the context of the Arab-Zionist conflict and globally, and given that the influence of the Zionist lobby on U.S. policies is as powerful as ever, the Arabs must take into account that there is a real possibility that Israel might embark on new stupidities within the five-year span I have mentioned. This might take place as a result of direct or tacit U.S. encouragement. On the other hand, the Arabs have a plus, and that is Arab solidarity that will be effective if the Arabs work out a well-defined plan of action and devise regional policies vis-a-vis neighboring foreign countries, and if they forge fruitful cooperation based on strong foundations oriented toward clear goals. The cooperation will have to encompass culture, politics, economics, and other areas. Recent American utterances and behavior as far as pan-Arab security and Palestinian Arab rights to their homeland are concerned inevitably cause alarm and warrant Arab vigilance, or are supposed to evoke such a reaction on our part. One may cite recurrent statements by U.S. officials about their intention to keep their fleets in the Gulf for an unlimited period of time, and their support for an unprecedented exodus of Soviet Jews to Palestinian territory, neither of which would have been possible solely under the cover of the human rights slogan had not the Americans put pressure on the Soviets, exploiting the latter's special

circumstances so as to incorporate the issue into their bilateral agreements with the Soviets. Add to that the increasing support for the Zionist entity's strategic arms stockpiles and giving it license to deploy them when necessary, the judgment on when to use them being left up to Israel. This is above and beyond U.S. assistance to Israel in other areas.

We all remember, as does the whole world, the circumstances under which the United States deployed and bolstered its fleets in the Gulf. Most important of these circumstances: The war that was raging between Iraq and Iran; Iranian aggression had extended to other Arabian Gulf countries, most notably the sisterly state of Kuwait. At the time, beyond the conflicting views regarding the presence of foreign fleets in Arab territorial waters and foreign bases on their territory and their repercussions for pan-Arab security, that excessive deployment was somehow comprehensible. But now, and against the background of the recent world developments and the cessation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran, and with Kuwait no longer being the target of Iranian aggression, the Arabian Gulf states, including Iraq, and even the entire Arabs would have liked the Americans to state their intention to withdraw their fleets.

Had they said that under the same circumstances and causes they would have returned to the Gulf, it might have been understandable also. But U.S. officials are making such statements as if to show that their immediate and longer-term presence in Gulf waters and, maybe, on some of its territory, is not bound to a time frame. These suspect policies give Arabs reason to feel suspicious of U.S. policies and intentions as to whether it is officially and actually interested in a termination of the Iraq-Iran war and thus contribute to much needed regional stability.

The other side is the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian land. How can we explain the Americans' support and backing for Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, except that the United States does not want peace as it claims and declares. If it really and actually wants peace, the United States would not have encouraged Israel and the aggressive trends in it to adopt such policies, which enhance Israel's capability to commit aggression and carry out expansion.

We the Arabs, proceeding from a long-standing friendship with the Soviet Union, did not expect that the Soviets would give in to this U.S. pressure in such a way that it would lead to these grave consequences for the Arabs and their pan-Arab security. As we tackle these challenges, it would be just as compromising to the destiny and cause of the Arabs to feel fear as it would be to be lax in our evaluating and working out a reaction to them. Therefore, there is no place among the ranks of good Arabs for the fainthearted who would argue that as a superpower, the United States will be the decisive factor, and others have no choice but to submit. At the same time, there is no place in our midst for those who fail to take note of recent developments that have added to U.S. strength, thus prompting it to the possible commission of follies against the interests and national security of the Arabs—either directly or by fanning and encouraging conflicts detrimental to the Arabs, irrespective of their source. We are not thus out to antagonize or to incite public opinion against the United States on the strength of mere speculation over potential developments. We are only making the point that the Arabs seek peace and justice throughout the world and want to forge relations of friendship with those who show respect to what friendship is all about—be it the United States or any other nation. It is only natural that the Arabs take a realistic approach to the new posture and power of the United States that has led the Soviet Union to abandon its erstwhile position of influence. However, America must respect the Arabs and respect their rights, and should not interfere in their internal affairs under any cover. The United States must not forget that the Arab nation is a great nation that taught humanity things it had been ignorant of. Otherwise, there is no room for unilateral friendship or unilateral respect, and there will be no consideration for the interests and rights of any party unless it is capable of understanding and respecting the Arabs' rights, interests, dignity, options, and pan-Arab security. Against the backdrop of the vital issues related to the substance of national Arab security, the question arises as to what we the Arabs have to do.

One of certain indisputable things, brothers, is that the correct description for a certain situation is not necessarily the correct solution to that situation, but an inevitable introduction leading to the correct solution. Therefore, in all cases, a solution does not merely consist of defining which issues are rejected, both concerning our behavior or the behavior and thinking of others who harm our pan-Arab security and national and pan-Arab interests. Another thing over which there is no room for dispute is that the policy of the age is not set by concerned foreign parties on any basis other than policies and strategies whose expected final result is to serve the interests of their countries.

Zionism realized these facts and concentrated its international effort here and there in accordance with an accurate perception and longer-lasting knowledge than that of the Arabs. The Zionists were progressive initiators in fields where they would disrupt the calculations and influences of the Arabs. In accordance with this basis, and not only on the basis of developing public opinion, Zionism directed its special concentration on the United States of America to involve it in its strategy, after realizing that the future of its goals and joint action with the Europeans would come up against special obstacles. The United States accepted the concept of joining interests and action with Zionism out of its concept of its own interests, after the United States had taken over the role of the European colonialists following World War II.

Despite all the harm the United States inflicted upon the Arabs due to its alliance with Zionism, there remained the fear of communism, the Soviet Union, and the Arab

friends and allies of the Soviet Union in the region, in addition to other factors. This continued to prevent the Arabs from taking influential stands towards U.S. policy, with minor exceptions. Their stands became restricted to a mere ineffective rejection or an ineffective silence and acceptance. The United States began not to take Arab stances seriously. The United States may have the famous red lines beyond which it does not tread concerning the interests of other nations that deal peacefully with it, but its policy so far has no red lines warning the concerned sides in the United States not to tread beyond them where Arab interests are concerned.

Realizing Arab solidarity on the basis of pan-Arab interests, correctly defining Arab interests, clearly and accurately defining everything that threatens their security and stability, and proceeding from this basis of capability, frankness, and solidarity with the United States, or other countries in general, prevents these countries from exceeding the proper bounds with the Arab nation and thus becoming a threat.

This might be a realistic basis for the establishment of Arab relations with the United States and other states, based on the principles I have mentioned. These are mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and respect for the requirements of pan-Arab security and common interests on a legitimate and agreed-upon basis.

Brothers, Zionism and its entity, Israel, have been used to embark upon areas and affairs to which the Arabs do not pay attention. The Arabs have also been used on occasion to rise all together to counter the Zionists' political, informational, or any other offensive for which Zionism has prepared all requirements through effective work over a long period of time. The Arabs would launch a counteroffensive without being fully prepared and soon their rising would dwindle and vanish. Therefore, the Arab reaction is often verbal or ineffective even if part of it takes the form of real action. In politics as well as in war, responsibility and experience have taught us that the counteroffensive should not necessarily be on the same axis that is always chosen by the enemy, especially when the encounter lasts a long time and when it is possible to choose one or more axis or one or more places other than those from which the enemy began its offensive and for which it prepared the requirements of confrontation and took into consideration Arab reaction. In such a case it might be enough to preoccupy the enemy on the axis selected for its offensive against us, and then we would attack it from another axis if the desired results were possible on the other axis. Accordingly, the direct offensive on the harmful plans and means used by the U.S. and Zionism against the Arabs in a certain field might not be always the right solution if we use all of our potential at one time in a manner that takes us away from other fields.

The big does not become big nor does the great earn such a description unless he is in the arena of comparison or fighting with someone else on a different level. The big powers became big only when small and medium-sized countries were found on this earth around these big powers. The big powers do not become big unless they are influential in small and medium-sized countries. Accordingly, among the means to weaken hostile policies and the harmful influence of those who harm us is to weaken the one who harms us inside or outside his national soil. Accordingly, and because interest is the basis of the Soviet Union's new policy, as well as the policy of the East European states, as it has always been the basis of the policy of other states, we are dutybound to ask and answer accurately how we can approach these states in order to weaken our enemies' influence on them or how we can benefit from our common financial, economic, political, informational, and other powers to achieve better results.

It has been proven that Arabs are capable of being influential when they make a decision and set their minds to it for actual application purposes. We have much evidence of how effective they can be; for example, the joint Iraqi-Saudi resolution of 6 August 1980, and the warning the two countries issued together that embassies must not be moved to Jerusalem, one of whose direct results in less than a month—the duration of the warning—was not only that the concerned countries did not transfer their embassies to Jerusalem, but also that embassies that had already long been transferred to the city returned to Tel Aviv.

The reason the United States stays in the Gulf is that the Gulf has become the most important spot in the region and perhaps the whole world due to developments in international policy, the oil market, and increasing demands from the United States, Europe, Japan, Eastern Europe, and perhaps the Soviet Union, for this product. The country that will have the greatest influence in the region through the Arab Gulf and its oil will maintain its superiority as a superpower without an equal to compete with it. This means that if the Gulf people, along with all Arabs, are not careful, the Arab Gulf region will be governed by the U.S. will. If the Arabs are not alerted and the weakness persists, the situation could develop to the extent desired by the United States; that is, it would fix the amount of oil and gas produced in each country and sold to this or that country in the world. Prices would also be fixed in line with a special perspective benefitting U.S. interests and ignoring the interests of others.

If this possibility is there and it is convincing, those who are convinced by it must conclude that peace in the Middle East is remote from the U.S. point of view because U.S. strategy, according to this analysis, needs an aggressive Israel, not a peaceful one. Peace between Iraq and Iran could be far off as long as Iran does not react favorably from an aware and responsible position and with the peace initiatives proposed by Iraq. The region could witness inter-Arab wars or controlled wars between the Arabs and some of their neighbors, if tangible results are not achieved on the basis of the principles of noninterference in others' internal affairs and nonuse of military force in inter-Arab relations.

Agreement should be reached over clear and widespread pan-Arab cooperation programs among Arab countries in the economic, political, and educational fields, as well as other fields. Love and peace of mind will take the place of suspicion, doubt, mistrust, and giving in to information and speculation propagated by rumormongers such as prejudiced Westerners and some rootless Arabs.

Brothers, the weakness of a big body lies in its bulkiness. All strong men have their Achilles' heel. Therefore, irrespective of our known stand on terror and terrorists, we saw that the United States as a superpower departed Lebanon immediately when some Marines were killed, the very men who are considered to be the most prominent symbol of its arrogance. The whole U.S. Administration would have been called into question had the forces that conquered Panama continued to be engaged by the Panamanian Armed Forces. The United States has been defeated in some combat arenas for all the forces it possesses, and it has displayed signs of fatigue, frustration, and hesitation when committing aggression on other peoples' rights and acting from motives of arrogance and hegemony. This is a natural outcome for those who commit aggression on other peoples' rights. Israel, once dubbed the invincible country, has been defeated by some of the Arabs. The resistance put up by Palestinian and Lebanese militia against Israeli invasion forces in 1982 and before that the heroic Egyptian crossing of the Suez Canal in 1973 have had a more telling psychological and actual impact than all Arab threats. Further, the threat to use Arab oil in 1973 during the October war proved more effective than all political attempts to protest or to beg at the gates of American decisionmaking centers. The stones in occupied Palestine now turn into a virtual and potentially fatal bullet if additional requirements are made available. It is the best proof of what is possible and indeed gives us cause to hold our heads high.

Just as Israel controls interests to put pressure on the U.S. Administration, hundreds of billions invested by the Arabs in the United States and the West may be similarly deployed. Indeed, for instance, some of these investments may be diverted to the USSR and East European countries. It may prove even more profitable than investment in the West, which has grown saturated with its national resources. Such a course of action may yield inestimable benefits for the Arabs and their national causes.

Our purported weakness does not lie in our ideological and hereditary characteristics. Contemporary experience has shown our nation to be distinguished and excellent, just as our nation's history over the centuries has shown this to be the case. Our purported weakness lies in a lack of mutual trust among ourselves, our failure to concentrate on the components of our strength, and our failure to focus on our weaknesses with a view to righting them. Let our motto be: All of us are strong as long as we are united, and all of us are weak as long as we are divided. Then we will see how all of us will reach safe shores, God willing, so we can take off together on the road of stability and prosperity, heartening our people and ourselves. We will also see how Satan will grow weaker wherever he may be and the evil will depart our homeland and our nation. We are proceeding with resolve and firmness, God willing, to reach this goal through brotherly cooperation that would serve as a model for common Arab action and developed brotherly cooperation. Let us go forward.

Brother leaders of the ACC countries; brother members of the audience. These are ideas and concepts that we are proposing for brotherly dialogue in the context of an exchange of views and experience among us on all issues of concern to our Arab countries and nation. We ask success from God toward the good. The peace and blessings of God be upon you, brothers. [applause]

Jordan's King Husayn

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[Speech by Jordan's King Husayn at the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

His Excellency brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, and His Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: I extend to you the sincere greetings of Arabism, and I wholeheartedly welcome you while you are at your Jordanian Arab home which is firm in its loyalty and sincere in its affiliation with the entire homeland and the entire nation. Maybe it is good fortune that promotes our hopes and optimism that our summit is being held on a glorious and dear occasion—namely Prophet Muhammad's ascension day. You are here with us in Amman, where we can see the captive holy Jerusalem, on which our hearts have been united in faith, amity, and purity since the Caliph 'Umar's pledge [a pledge that Caliph 'Umar gave to the patriarch of Jerusalem when he entered the city and assured him that Christians and their churches would be safe, and that they would be allowed to perform their religious rites freely] set the noble and firm foundations of this unity, and introduced us to the whole world as a nation that worships God and has faith, Muslims and Christians, mosques and churches, bound with pan-Arab ties, that have been and will continue to be a guarantee for our strength, the safety shore, and the balance of development, confrontation, and liberty. You are with us in Amman today, where we can see with our hearts and eyes Jerusalem, the Nativity and the Holy Sepulchre churches, God's name that touches the heart before the ear, and the echo of the fighting stones of the valiant popular Palestinian intifadah, which sees its steadfastness in our steadfastness, its strength in our strength, and its impregnability in our impregnability, which we are seeking to restore to regain rights and to defend dignity.

Our summit is also being held under another dear occasion, which is the first anniversary of the establishment of the ACC. From this premise, I realize at these precious moments the difficulty of expressing to you what we have in our hearts and minds, and I feel embarrassed to welcome you while you are among us as the owners of the house and the brothers among their relatives. This has been our feeling while we were among our brothers in Egypt, among our relatives in Iraq, and among our people in the Yemen, whose unionist steps we are following with all happiness and optimism out of our common belief that every step on the road to our unity reduces the distance to the dream and renews the hope to achieve the objectives. In light of this, I believe that it is my duty to bless the efforts of the Yemeni brothers and to ask God to grant them success to accomplish the task and to achieve the objective, which is our dear dream, just as it is the dream of the one Yemeni people.

Brother presidents, it is hard for me to say: Here you are with us in Jordan. We assert that we and you, on this soil and in this Arab country, are hearts joined by amity, minds filled with awareness, and arms that began a joint Arab action for the benefit of our peoples and nation and continued, throughout the first year in the life of the ACC, to lay the foundations and bases on firm ground for a blessed start in the broadest horizons of cooperation and integration. Praise be to God for granting us success in reaching these formulas, and for supporting us in building ourselves up with all confidence, awareness, and concern until we established the ACC.

Here we are, starting our second year with all optimism and enthusiasm, and with all calmness and seriousness to complete the march and achieve the goals. The road ahead of us is clear, and the objectives are specified and we will achieve them with the strong will and determination, and with God's guidance and support.

Brother presidents, our establishment of the ACC in February 1989 came as a result of the collective awareness that matured and became stronger with our concern for our peoples' present and future, which is part of our nation's present and future. If the achievements scored during the first year were only those agreements reached by us which constitute the framework for our joint action, we, as we stand on the threshold of the second year, are more optimistic and determined to tranform all that has been achieved into a tangible reality, whose many positive results will be reflected on our people and which will confirm, in practice, the wise and calm seriousness that governed our first steps. Therefore, I am fully confident that since we have laid the foundations for that structure, we are now able to raise it in all fields of cooperation and integration.

The real end of the cold war witnessed by the world, and the developments and changes that came as a surprise compel us to face a very serious responsibility toward our countries and the future of our generations. If it has become evident to us now that there are some who want our region, homeland, and nation to remain on the fringes of the movement of history, then this responsibility calls on us to activate and strengthen action inside our ACC in a wise and serious manner that will make the others realize that it is impossible to leave us on the fringes or destroy us; to ignore our causes, worries, and aspirations, and to continue to look down on us.

It is not a hidden fact that the end of the cold war we are witnessing today may make our peoples and nation part of a deal for agreement and accord among the economic blocs whose parties and features have either been established or which are currently being formed. Unless we achieve our effective existence through the major action that we have started, many winds and heavy storms will blow against us and make our present and future an easy target.

With its distinguished geographic position, the Arab world will have to face two alternatives: Either to become part of these historic changes, under which it can achieve its existence, stability, development, impregnability, or to be on the fringes of these changes, which will devour it without mercy, take from it without giving anything back, and bypass it without reflecting its positive effects on its land and people.

A new world system is being formed now. Among its distinguished features is the world's move to a stage in which the importance of the economic and political blocs is stressed. Also, among its clear features is the trend by the countries of the North to compete in achieving stability and prosperity instead of the trend toward hegemony and the arms race.

Consequently, the summit we are holding today is the first opportunity we have to confirm our full awareness of what is going on in the world. We must translate this awareness into a real action that will not only make the others respect us, but will also reflect our respect for ourselves and concern for our existence and future.

Unless we define our role by ourselves, that role will be defined and drawn up by others. This is what I meant when I referred to the blessed start of our ACC after a year full of study, consultation, and coordination, and after the number of agreements reached by the ministerial committees and the Ministerial Council.

Here, I must register my deep appreciation of the major role played by the Republic of Iraq, which hosted our first summit. I must also register my appreciation for brother President Saddam Husayn's chairmanship of the first session of the Supreme Council, and also for the efforts exerted by brother Taha Yasin Ramadan during his chairmanship of the Ministerial Council. The efforts of fraternal Iraq in this regard were the most prominent and thankful efforts to achieve all that has been achieved so far and to make us reach that blessed start. I pray to God that this summit of ours will constitute the first, firm step in that blessed start toward our aspirations and ambitions and toward the great hopes which the peoples of our four countries are pinning on our ACC.

Brother presidents: We meet today at the time when there is so much we are expected to achieve that will be studied and discussed by us. On the eastern flank of our homeland and nation, the cease-fire between fraternal Iraq and Iran is still at the starting point. The war has stopped, but peace has not come yet. The continuity of the current state of affairs is neither in the interest of fraternal Iraq or the neighbor Iran; and, it is certainly not in the interest of our region.

The continuation of the cease-fire on this point places the two countries in a situation that does not allow them to proceed toward development and construction or to play a major role in achieving a just peace and the required stability in our region. Fraternal Iraq has responded to all sincere peace efforts and initiatives to put a just end to its war with Iran. Fraternal Iraq has also made its own initiatives, the most recent of which was brother President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which reflects Iraq's sincere approach toward peace. However, the regrettable thing is that these initiatives did not receive a response. This war is still waiting for the just end that we all aspire for, particularly regarding the more pressing humanitarian issue. I am talking about the prisoner issue. The restoration of the relations of peace and neighborliness to this part of our region will leave no pretext for a foreign armed presence in the heart of our Arab homeland and Islamic world. This presence threatens us all and paralyzes our potential and resources, which must be used for development and construction and for achieving progress and prosperity. This potential and these resources give us our intrinsic power that enables us to deter the enemies, and confront and foil all the premeditated and evil plots against our Arab order in particular, and against our Islamic nation in general.

In the Lebanese arena, the crisis is still revolving in a vicious circle despite the appreciated efforts of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, and despite its efforts to save Lebanon to restore its unity and sovereignty over all its territory. This makes the Lebanese situation continue to be volatile, including all the consequences of threatening the Lebanese entity and the Arab order.

The new waves of Jewish emigration have come to add an extremely serious development that places all sides before an organized hostile action that is aimed against the entire Palestinian Arab territory, harboring the seeds of a new expansionist aggression, and that is threatening us in this part of the Arab homeland. I had seriously tried to warn against this issue before it took place. I also warned against it when it began because it is not just a threat to my country, but a devastating threat to the heart of the homeland and nation and to its pan-Arab security. It also hampers peace and constitutes a new link in the chain of striking at the Palestinian people's struggle that is embodied by their valiant intifadah and legitimate struggle to achieve their freedom and independence on their national soil.

I pause here at what Israel is propagating and trying to instill in people's minds day and night regarding its opposition to any non-Jordanian military presence in the Jordanian Arab territory, the longest line of pan-Arab confrontation, and the nation's forward trench that is standing fast in the face of aggression and expansion.

The fact that merits some contemplation is the escalation and growth of the Israeli campaign against Jordan at a time when we are suffering a decrease in our capabilities and resources and vast difficulties in providing the bare minimum to enable us to defend ourselves and the dignity and honor of our Arab nation. At the same time, Israel is receiving ever-flowing support and help from many in this world, especially what it getting from the most powerful power on a regular and growing basis without limit or letup.

No one, whoever they may be, can miss the negative effects resulting from the decline in our resources and its direct effect on the steadfast kinfolk in the occupied territories due to the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. Nevertheless, we shall continue to honor our nation's pledge to them; steadfast, patient, fixed in its first trench, and defending it and the Arab land. It is sufficient for us in this country to have the honor of defending our Arab nation to contain the first aggressive blow as much as we can, when it takes place.

Here, I direct my thanks and gratitude to the brothers who proceeded to stand by us stemming from their pan-Arab awareness. This has helped us to overcome a portion of our financial and economic problems.

It is no longer possible not to take a stand and realize a unified pan-Arab stand concerning these issues. If our Council's basic task is to build, then consolidating and protecting this construction together constitutes a part of the Arab effort to confront the dangers represented by every one of these issues.

The new developments witnessed by our world require of us a serious and alert Arab stance. I am confident that you share with me the hope that our summit will be part of the great Arab action for which preparation must start in a different way, and whose discussion must be different, too, so that we can attain an influential and unified pan-Arab stance to make our nation a force capable of handling these new developments and confronting the dangers and challenges.

Your excellencies, my dear brothers, allow me to welcome you once more in your country and among your people and brothers. I wish our summit every success concerning what we hope to realize and concerning the hopes our nations are pinning on us. May God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

Egypt's Mubarak

JN2402164790 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1124 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] Brother Your Majesty the King. In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear brother, Your Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal; dear brother Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn; dear brother Your Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; dear brothers: Once again, we meet in this towering Arab capital amid an Arab people with deep-rooted traditions—a people who have their own bright pan-Arab glories, who have made tangible contributions toward the attainment of the Arab renaissance, and who also defended our nation's rights and holy places. Moreover, these people have had a major role in safeguarding peace and security in this region.

Every Arab, along with us, takes pride in the great pan-Arab role being played by my dear brother and friend, His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, and also in the fact that he has taken it upon himself to unify Arab ranks, bolster the Arabs' ability to face up to problems and challenges, and mobilize the creative potentials of these great people to use them for the battles of construction and progress.

We are holding this meeting of ours after the end of the first session of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] which was not only the session of creation and emergence. No, this session was first and foremost a session of accomplishments and additions, considering the agreements concluded during that session. These agreements covered many fields of economic activity in the ACC member states. There is no doubt that this success is largely due to the highly active role played by my brother and dear friend President Saddam Husayn who bestowed much of his energy, thinking, and militant experience on the ACC's work. President Saddam has always shown a sincere commitment to the higher pan-Arab objectives of the Arab nation. Moreover, he has persistently demonstrated a sound perspective with regard to the path conducive to the attainment of these objectives within a framework that would provide the best protection to Arab interests. Therefore, I hope that my brother President Saddam Husayn would accept from all of us our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the splendid effort and the wise and objective moves that he has made.

The first session was marked by some accomplishments and some progress. Yet, we view the future with further confidence and optimism, displaying a strong determination to walk in the same confident and persistent footsteps which neither miss the target nor lend themselves to taking the wrong course. No, these footsteps will strive to continue to strengthen the edifice of cooperation and coordination to help this edifice reach further heights of elevation and more sublime horizons.

Dear brothers, we have serious tasks that we have to accomplish in this meeting which marks the beginning of our second session to consecrate the commendable efforts made by the ACC Ministerial Council. These efforts were coordinated and enhanced by dear brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of fraternal Iraq, in full cooperation and coordination with his colleagues, representatives of the remaining three ACC member states. Thus, the work of this Council emerged as an additional step taken to strengthen the role of official and popular institutions in enriching and developing this experience.

Furthermore, our meeting today on this dear land which is part of the heartland of the Arab homeland is being held at a time when the Middle East region is witnessing serious events and highly important developments which we have to consider and discuss together, displaying a thorough awareness of their dimensions and implications for the stability of the situation in the region. Besides, we also have to discuss their impact on the chances for achieving a just and lasting peace among all of the region's peoples without exception.

We are advocates of coexistence, peace, and construction. We are against war, violence, and oppression. We are a nation that upholds man's dignity and safeguards his rights and interests, foremost among which are his rights to free choice and self-determination.

We also believe that respecting a certain people's rights is not achievable by violating the rights of another. While affirming this stand in defense of human rights, we also affirm the principle of equal rights among all peoples and assert that there should be no distinction in terms of privileges and obligations among peoples. We strongly oppose attempts to settle Soviet or other Jews in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem. We consider such attempts a flagrant violation of the principles of law and legitimacy, a confiscation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and a dangerous disruption of security and stability in this region.

It might not be out of place here to voice our total support for fraternal Jordan in its confrontation of these developments and our determination to decisively confront the hostile threats voiced against it by irresponsible elements that seek to jeopardize the region's security and peace in pursuit of a deceptive mirage and absurd illusions. Those who propagate these claims must realize that there is a strong Arab and international commitment to safeguard Jordan's entity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the unity of its people and to protect its positive and constructive role in disseminating peace and bringing about progress in the region.

It is hoped that all of these events and developments will open the eyes of all world states to the seriousness

entailed in leaving explosive regional problems unresolved. We hope that all world states will realize that this would inevitably lead to repercussions whose extent and outcome are impossible to foresee. No one, no matter how strong or influential he is, would be able to escape the effects of such repercussions. Hence, we demand and insist that the international efforts being made to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict be intensified. The pillar and mainstay of such a settlement must be a historic reconciliation between Israel and the fraternal Palestinian people based on the almost unanimous resolutions endorsed by the international community.

In the same vein, we urge an end to the conflict in the Gulf region and demand that the cease-fire agreement reached be turned into a total termination of hostilities, as the maintenance of the no peace, no war status is fraught with dire consequences. Certainly, such a status goes against the willpower and interests of the region's peoples. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the peace initiative announced by brother President Saddam Husayn on behalf of the friendly Iraqi people. In this initiative, President Saddam Husayn affirmed Iraq's commitment to end all forms and aspects of war and declared a determination to end the conflict once and for all.

Lastly, we feel that we are duty-bound to refer to the seriousness entailed in the continuation of the tragic situation in fraternal Lebanon and also to the need to break the vicious circle of killing, bloodshed, misery, and devastation. This is a cause for redoubling efforts to attain a comprehensive settlement and to return this wounded country to normal—to a status in which all the Lebanese would be free of fear, threats, and alienation.

Concluding my speech, brothers, I would like to express our belief that the march of the ACC will forge ahead with confident and steady steps that will neither falter nor waver. We are determined to create a happier future for future generations—a future that will provide these generations with further security and welfare. May God grant us all success in our efforts. May God's peace and mercy be upon you. [applause]

YAR's Salih

JN2402200190 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1758 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Speech by Yemen Arab Republic President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at the final session of the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; in the name of God, who says: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves [Koranic verse].

My dear brother, Your Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and chairman of the ACC Supreme Council; dear brothers President Saddam Husayn and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: I am very pleased to first extend my great appreciation to my brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, to the fraternal Government and people of Jordan, and to the masses that gathered to welcome this blessed meeting, for the flowing fraternal emotions, good reception, and generous hospitality that we received here in fraternal Jordan.

My dear brothers: The positive results we have achieved in our meeting will be added to the strong foundations of the ACC's new construction, alongside greater successes and continuity. Our meeting acquired a special importance due to the circumstances and important changes our Arab homeland and the world are going through and the great challenges facing our Arab nation. Although we in the Supreme Council are very proud of the harvest of the one year since the ACC's foundation and its pioneering experience in manifesting cooperation and integration, nevertheless the concerns and fateful causes of our nation were present at the top of the agenda for all our discussions and meetings, stemming from the spirit of historic responsibility imposed by our pan-Arab commitment.

We are very satisfied with what we have achieved not only in founding the sectors of cooperation, unity, and integration among our countries, but also in all the issues and causes of the masses of our Arab nation and their supreme interests and aspired-to goals.

On this occasion, we thank my brothers President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan for their valuable efforts when chairing the first session.

Dear brothers: Our meeting has gained special significance among your brothers in the Yemen, since it coincided with the unity steps in Yemen to reunite the Yemeni homeland and establish the Yemeni Republic this year, God willing. We express to you our gratitude for your support and blessing of the unity steps which are new bricks in the Arab construction, and we reiterate our affirmation that Yemeni unity will be a strength and support for an effective Arab presence and one of the elements of security, stability, and peace in the region.

Dear brothers: We in the Yemen Arab Republic declare that we stand by our brothers under all circumstances and in all situations to confront all foreign dangers and aggression. Therefore, we vehemently reject all aggressive suggestions and statements made by the Zionist enemy against fraternal Jordan. We stand with our Arab people in Jordan in defending its sovereignty and independence and in confronting any attempts at aggression on the part of the Zionist enemy.

From this steadfast country, we welcome and salute the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and their courageous steadfastness in confronting Zionist oppression and terrorism. We also declare that we stand by the Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle to retrieve their legitimate rights and

establish their Palestinian state on their own land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. We call on the international community and all peace-loving nations to shoulder their humanitarian responsibilities towards the Palestinian people's cause and to put pressure on the Zionist entity to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

To conclude, I thank my brother His Majesty Husayn Ibn-Talal for the excellent preparation for this meeting and for the great hospitality. I wish him success in chairing the ACC Supreme Council's second session.

Secretary Nammar Reads Summit Resolutions

JN2402190690 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1731 GMT 24 Feb 90

["Resolutions" issued by the Amman summit of the Arab Cooperation Council Supreme Council; read by Dr. Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Resolutions of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Supreme Council.

The ACC Supreme Council convened its second session in Amman on 28 Rajab 1410 hegira, corresponding to 24 February 1990, under His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with the attendance of His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The following resolutions were taken:

1. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-D of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation among the ACC member states.
2. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of planning among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of planning among the ACC member states.
3. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the industrial field among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-B of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the industrial field among the ACC member states.
4. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of oil and gas among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of oil and gas among the ACC member states.
5. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the touristic field among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-E of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the touristic field among the ACC member states.
6. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of local government and municipal affairs among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of local government and municipal affairs among the ACC member states.
7. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of health among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-E of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of health among the ACC member states.
8. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of meteorology among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-C of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of meteorology among the ACC member states.
9. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of air transport and civil aviation among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-C of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of air transport and civil aviation among the ACC member states.
10. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation in the field of maritime transport for persons and goods among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-C of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of maritime transport for persons and goods among the ACC member states.
11. Taking cognizance of the recommendation made by the Ministerial Council on the agreement on cooperation

in the field of religious affairs among the ACC member states, and on the basis of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 and Paragraph 2-E of Article 2 of the ACC foundation agreement, it was decided to approve the agreement on cooperation in the field of religious affairs among the ACC member states.

King Husayn Closes Summit's Final Session

JN2402203090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1804 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Speech by Jordan's King Husayn at the final session of the fourth summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, ACC, at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

His Excellency brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, His Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: I extend to you sincere Arab greetings. I kindly request you to convey these greetings to your people, who, along with the Jordanian Arab people, followed with hope, confidence, and optimism, the convocation of the second session of the ACC Supreme Council's first meeting. You gave us the honor of hosting this session and made out of its convocation a day of glory for our country, and I had hoped—and with me the Jordanian Arab people—that you would stay with us a while longer so that we would be able to reciprocate some of the hospitality you have accorded us in the past when we visited our three Arab countries—the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic—although I am aware of the difficulty inherent in this matter, because you cannot accord hospitality to someone in his own house and among his own people. However, I feel that it is my duty to stress to you that your presence among us on this Arab soil is a delight, a victory, and an honor for our entire nation; this includes the great hopes pinned on the ACC and its summit, and what we were able to achieve, foremost of which is this common view that was reflected in our common awareness of all Arab and international developments.

Brother presidents, what the world witnessed during the first year of the ACC confirmed an important fact; namely, that this council was established at the right time, and that the developments and changes the international community has experienced during the past year would have placed us before the need to establish our council. Such a fact reflects the depth of our awareness which the new changes have confirmed, including the soundness of its objective and approach. Here lies the importance of intensifying our efforts and of doing our utmost to entrench our joint action, to elevate its structure, and to open it wide to all prospects. Without doing so, we will continue to be scattered countries whose resources are besieged and which are governed by geographic borders at a time when the big economic and political powers are about to cancel borders, in their interest; to reduce distances, to their own benefit; and to draw up a new map of our world in which these forces both reconcile and conflict with each other at the expense of others.

Our four countries and our greater Arab homeland have the ability to protect their interests, existence, and future. However, this ability depends on how much we can do on the road of cooperation and integration among ourselves, and on how much effect the results of this cooperation and integration have on our people and nation. I do not want here to add much to what my brother presidents said. They put their finger on the points of weakness and the points of strength in the pan-Arab march. Because we all agree that this council, including its establishment and charter, has succeeded in containing the points of weakness and lifting the siege around the points of strength, adopting this rule as a basis for action will put all our problems on the right course and secure just solutions and ends to them, be it regarding our central cause, the Palestine question; the achievement of a lasting peace between fraternal Iraq and Iran; the Lebanese crisis; or any other Arab crisis or issue we are currently experiencing. The world cannot look at us except from the angle that we chose ourselves. Moreover, it cannot deal with us except with the respect, seriousness, and trust with which we deal among ourselves and with our own issues.

Brother presidents, I thank you again, because you allowed our country to be your small home, and our people to open to you their hearts and minds. You have also given us the opportunity to meet with you and to hold this summit among the sons of your Jordanian Arab people, who were most pleased, whose confidence in themselves was promoted further, and who have become more aware of the importance of their position and the firmness of their stand in this forward trench of the greater homeland and the great nation. The feelings that you have shown to our people and the decisive support you have expressed, will continue to be some of what they need to go on conveying their message and to stand fast in their trench. Jordan's strength comes from yours, from our strength in the ACC, and from our Arab nation's strength. May God bless you and guide our steps along what he wants for our homeland and nation. May God help us achieve the noblest of tasks and objectives in the secure and honorable life that we lead and throughout which we play our role toward ourselves and toward the entire international community. May God Almighty grant us success in our unionist step in its first anniversary and at the beginning of its second year, for He is the best to protect and the best to help [Koranic verse]. In the name of God, I declare this session closed.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Message to Jerusalem 'Peace Conference'

LD2702004390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0005 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (SPA)—The head of state of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, addressed a message to an international peace conference held in occupied Jerusalem last week, in which he stressed that the necessary means for establishing real security in occupied Palestine are embodied in the leaders of the Israeli enemy's holding a dialogue with the Palestinians in order to achieve a just and permanent peace in the region.

In his message, which was relayed this evening by WAFA, 'Arafat warned against the consequences of wasting the historic opportunity in the region of achieving a just and permanent peace based on the restoration of the Palestinian people's proven national rights.

'Arafat Receives EEC Ambassadors in Tunisia

LD2502003990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed the necessity of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permament members of the UN Security Council and all relevant parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO.

This came during the Palestinian president's meeting with ambassadors of the European Community, EEC, accredited to Tunisia. During the meeting, he put forward the PLO's views on the development of the situation in the Middle East, international developments, as well as the emigration of Soviet Jews and their settling in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 25 Feb

JN2502204690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1923 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad today from Tunis on an official visit of several days to fraternal Iraq.

He was received at the airport by several senior Iraqi officials, and Palestinian Ambassador to Iraq brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad.

'Arafat Urges Arab Stand on U.S. Israeli Support

LD2602180690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] In a news interview, brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, stressed that the United States gives unlimited support to the Zionist entity so that this entity can continue its intransigence, terrorism, and hegemony against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He added: The United States gives the Zionist entity additional aid of $600 million for settling and housing the Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union, in addition to five percent of the aid reduced from the other countries, which is valued at $165 million from the share of reducing the missiles [as heard].

Brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar called for an Arab stand to confront the (?usurpation) of occupied Palestine. He said: The United States has suddenly closed its doors to the emigrants in order to force them to go to occupied Palestine.

On the other hand he confirmed that the latest statistics at the PLO indicate that there are 1,038 martyrs as a result of the intifadah, and 56,000 wounded, including 6,500 handicapped, in addition to the effects of the banned chemical bombs used by Israel. Brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar said that they [chemical bombs] affected pregnant women and the eyes and nerves of children. This is in addition to 66,000 Palestinian detainees in the Zionist prisons and thousands of hectares of land whose trees have been either uprooted or burnt.

'Arafat Views Current Problems, Issues

LD2502113290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 25 (KUNA)—President of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat expressed Sunday the Palestinian people's determination to continue the uprising until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, 'Arafat said that he is not against the principle of human rights but called for allowing the Soviet Jews to choose their destination and not to force them to fly to Israel. He said that the United States closed the doors before the emigration of Soviet Jews to force them to go to Israel and called for an "Arab action" to confront the increasing number of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories.

He said the uprising, which entered its third year last December, needs "real support" from the Arab World and urged the Arab countries to abide by the resolutions of the latest Arab summit.

On the current changes in East Europe, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian uprising was "the example" which the East European countries followed to confront their previous regimes. He noted that the resumption of diplomatic relations between these countries and Israel "is not the end of the issue."

'Arafat Receives Arab Committee Representative

LD2602214290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received in Tunis Lakhdar Brahimi, representative of the Tripartite Arab Committee. During the meeting they discussed the latest developments and new events in the Arab arena.

'Abbas Says Egypt-PLO Relations Unaffected

JN2602171890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] has affirmed that there has been no change in the atmosphere between Egypt and the PLO in view of what had been published in the press. In an exclusive statement to the Palestine News Agency, WAFA, he added that there is complete political agreement on the Middle East peace process, as well as on other issues.

WAFA also learned that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, received a written message from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak the day before yesterday.

AFP Report on Peace Plan for Beirut Denied

JN2402171590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] AFP carries a report from Sidon on the details of a peace plan for the eastern area [of Beirut]. We would like here to point out that there is no truth whatsoever in the reports on such a plan, and that Palestinian efforts are basically aimed at ending the fighting, restoring security, tranquillity, and stability to the fraternal Lebanese people, and safeguarding their sovereignty and unity.

Fatah-Revolutionary Council Members Rejoin PLO

JN2502193090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that approximately 100 members of the so-called "Fatah-Revolutionary Council" led by Sabri al-Banna, "Abu-Nidal," have broken away from the council and rejoined the PLO. The move follows deepening differences within the group since infighting in southern Lebanon last summer left 70 members killed. Palestinian sources in Paris and Tunis told AL-ITTIHAD that these members were moved via Bulgaria to an Arab country where they have been housed in PLO camps. They include, the sources add, two of Abu-Nidal's most prominent lieutenants: 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa, one of his deputies, and 'Atif Abu-Bakr, the council's official spokesman. The two were said to have issued a statement recently in the name of "The Revolutionary Council-Emergency Command."

Envoy Says PNC To Meet in Baghdad, Not Amman

PM2302112690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 2

[Layla Dib report: "Palestinian Ambassador in Amman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestine National Council Meeting To Be Held in Baghdad Next Month"]

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman, has denied news reports that the meetings of Palestine National Council Central Council will be in Amman.

He said: There is no truth in the reports that the PLO submitted an official request to the Jordanian Government to convene the council in Amman. He added: These meetings are likely to be held in Baghdad, as usual, next month. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Palestinian ambassador confirmed that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan late this month on an official invitation from the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, which was conveyed to Baghdad early this week by Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

Egypt

Yugoslav President Drnosvek Arrives in Cairo

NC2602122490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Dr Janez Drnosvek, president of the SFRY Presidency, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Yugoslav president at Cairo Airport.

President Mubarak then escorted Egypt's guest to al-Qubbah Presidential Palace where he was accorded an official reception at which senior state officials and the staff of the Yugoslav Embassy in Cairo were present.

'Closed' Talks Begin

NC2602191590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnosvek held a closed round of talks tonight after which President Mubarak hosted a dinner in honor of the SFRY president which was attended by the Yugoslav delegation and a number of senior state officials.

The two presidents are scheduled to hold another round of closed talks tomorrow morning while the two delegations hold an expanded session at the same time to discuss details of the issues on the agenda.

A round of Egyptian-Yugoslav talks were held this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry. The Egyptian side was led by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Yugoslav side by Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar. The two delegations discussed international issues of common interest, the Middle East situation, the Nonaligned Movement's role in giving an impetus to the peace process, and bilateral relations in various spheres and ways of strengthening them.

The SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs stated after the talks that views were exchanged on current issues of common interest and discussed the role the Nonaligned Movement can play in responding to international developments. He added that there was an identity of views between the two sides. He then said his country does not oppose the emigration of Soviet Jews, but rejects their settlement in the occupied Arab territories which is also rejected by the international community. He stressed that the nonaligned countries are paying special attention to this issue.

The Yugoslav foreign affairs federal secretary also praised the stand of the EC and a number of countries outside the Nonaligned Movement in support of the Arab stand on emigration by Soviet Jews. He said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed holding a meeting of nonaligned foreign ministers at the United Nations on 16 and 17 April.

Comments on Jewish Immigration

NC2602122090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0631 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—SFRY President Janez Drnovsek has stated that he is happy to visit Egypt and to meet with President Husni Mubarak. His visit is due to begin today.

Drnovsek said that Yugoslavia appreciates the wise policy of President Mubarak and the efforts he is making to establish peace and stability in the Middle East and to resolve African issues.

He stated that the Nonaligned Movement has an important international role and noted that economic problems are among the most important issues that face the movement.

Interviewed by Samir Rajab, chairman of the board of directors of AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, and published in today's edition, the Yugoslav president said that the issue of Soviet Jews is a problem with various aspects and must be discussed with several countries. He noted that the USSR cannot restrict people's freedom of movement and travel, particularly as this is a human rights issue.

The Yugoslav president also emphasized his country's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and added that it is not possible to resolve the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration by preventing Jews from leaving their country. He noted, however, that a solution to this problem must be found.

On another issue, he said that negotiation is the only way to resolve the international debt problem.

Pope Shunudah on 'Danger' of Jewish Immigration

JN2302230490 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 21 Feb 90 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Pope Shunudah to Reporters: Jews No Longer God's Chosen People; Gandhi More Spiritual Than the British Colonialists"]

[Text] In an interview with a group of reporters whom he invited to Wadi al-Natrun Convent last Saturday [17 February], Pope Shunudah stated that Jewish emigration to Israel constitutes a danger to the Palestinian lands, that it will lead to increasing Israeli army reserves, and will result in the expulsion of Arabs from their lands and replacing them with Jewish settlers.

We should recall, Pope Shunudah said, that Israel was originally founded on immigration and that what is taking place now is not new but is a new link in a process that has been going on ever since the Jewish state was

established. He added: What is needed is a joint Arab stand, because there is no use in hurling curses at them while they strike at us.

Pope Shunudah said: It is not in U.S. interests to receive new Jews, because that would intensify Jewish pressure on it and thereby exacerbate the problem.

Pope Shunudah said: Dealing with Israel is very difficult. The problem of the Dayr al-Sultan is still unresolved. However, the higher Jewish court has ruled in favor of the Copts' right to it, but when the Egyptian state demanded its return, Israel rejected the claim on the pretext that the issue was political rather than religious.

Concerning political life in Egypt, Pope Shunudah said he advises that all parties concentrate on constructive, productive, and positive action instead of wasting precious time in arguments and drawing attention to the faults of others. It easy to destroy but it is difficult to construct. The pope asked that dialogue focus on objective rather than personal criticism, noting that this is the way to emphasize construction rather than destruction and that there are new issues that should be tackled—which require concerted efforts by everyone—such as the economic problem, unemployment, the population explosion, and the moral problem.

Pope Shunudah stated he does not approve of forming a Christian party in Egypt because he is not interested in creating polarization between Muslims and Copts and that he wants Christians to coexist side by side with Muslims in the various arenas of the political action.

Asked about the Copts' position on the Islamic shari'a, Pope Shunudah said: When Muslims have one standard viewpoint that is not limited to general principles but embraces all issues, we will then have the right circumstances to express our opinion.

Pope Shunudah related some of the interesting details of his meeting with President Carter in 1977. One of these details is that the first question the U.S. President addressed to him was: Did you write a book about Jews? The pope replied in the affirmative and that in the book he had said: He no longer regards Jews as God's chosen people after the emergence of other religions believing in God. If we accepted this, he told him, then you and I should admit that we are not from God's people. Carter made no comment.

Pope Shunudah indicated that his recent visit to the United States, England, Australia, and Canada was basically pastoral and gave him an opportunity to deliver numerous lectures and defend the Palestine cause. The pope related his role in establishing numerous churches for Coptic expatriates in these countries to enable them and their sons to maintain their Coptic identity as well as their ties with their motherland, Egypt.

Concerning the struggle against colonialism, the pope said he considered Gandhi more spiritual than the British colonialists, despite the fact that Gandhi himself was Jewish [as published] and the English were Christian.

Government Urged To Reassess Political Strategy

JN2302134390 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

[Article by chief editor 'Adil Husayn: "We Must Be Strong To Face the Zionists"]

[Excerpt] In spite of Israeli intransigence and terrorism, and despite the catastrophic Soviet decision to allow Jewish emigration to Palestine, we notice—when reading the official papers—that tension has developed in relations with the PLO. The tension began after the Israeli bus operation and escalated recently with the attack against Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. As usual, certain writers took advantage of the opportunity in a suspicious way to fan the flames and foil attempts to reach reconciliation. One of them wrote a long article against the abuser (meaning Abu-Iyad) although it is clear that the person who wrote the article was the real abuser. I do not really know how one can question the seriousness of PLO officials in such a way at a time when we demand that the Israelis recognize the PLO.

Without going into details of those articles, what really irritates us are the signs hidden between the lines about our fear of the Israelis' anger. Have things really deteriorated to that point?

We assert once again that for us, the Palestine question is a religious question. It is also a question related to Egyptian and Arab national security. Israeli missiles and their nuclear warheads are not there to hit Nabulus or Gaza, but they are directed mainly against Arab capitals, at head of which is Cairo. In the face of this threat, we must mass all the strength we can and we should not tremble or feel afraid; otherwise, they will manipulate us the way they want and humiliate us.

This means we should think, plan, and move in a way different from what we are doing now. We are saying that current Egyptian political action (on the level of the Arab-Zionist conflict) has no clear, strategic objective and that it lacks motivation and resolve. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Nicaraguan Election Results

LD2602230190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2207 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Dear listeners, God's peace, mercy and blessings be on you. The brother leader of the revolution gave a statement to JANA about the results of the Nicaraguan elections in which he said:

The success of Violeta de Chamorro in the conventional elections in Nicaragua does not at all mean the success of

the counterrevolution, as Violeta was originally from the forces of the popular revolution which were led by the Sandinista Front, and her husband Chomorro was assassinated by the hireling regime of Somoza in 1978.

However, in spite of the fact that Ortega has adopted a noble stand toward the results of the elections, democracy does not mean the support of 54 percent against 41 percent. Democracy means the authority of the people without any deputization. The authority of the people means that the people govern themselves by joining, in full, the people's congresses and committees.

The rule of the single party and the multiparty system, the rule of one class and the existence of several classes, the farces of the elections which allow nothing but one word—either yes or no—and governing on behalf of the masses, all these methods have been proven failures and have been abandoned by the masses. The masses are not interested any more in elections. The percentage of the electors [voting] has been decreasing year after year, until the participation of one quarter of the electors in elections is now considered a high percentage in all the countries of the world.

The forces of evil, which are hostile to progress and freedom, and which are awaiting the opportunity to harm the revolution, should not feel happy, as both the winner and the loser of the Nicaraguan elections are from the revolutionary camp.

Namibia's Nujoma Arrives for Visit 25 Feb

LD2502231490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Feb (JANA)—President Sam Nujoma, president-elect of Namibia, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, where he was greeted by the brother secretary for People's Committees Affairs at the General People's Congress.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2602212190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli 26 Feb (JANA, UMA pool)—The brother leader of the revolution has received President Sam Nujoma, the elected president of Namibia. Elected President Sam Nujoma briefed the brother leader of the revolution on the situation in the south of the African continent in general, and on the situation in Namibia in particular.

Sam Nujoma expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for the material and moral support rendered by the Great Jamahiriyah to the people of Namibia during their struggle for independence. President Sam Nujoma also extended an invitation to the brother leader of the revolution to take part in the independence day celebrations of the Namibian people on the 21st of the coming March.

Leaves Tripoli 26 Feb

LD2602212290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Feb (JANA)—President Sam Nujoma, the elected president of Namibia, left Tripoli this evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Sam Nujoma made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he expressed his deepest thanks and appreciation for the material and moral support provided by the Great Jamahiriyah to the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] during the struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and independence.

He said also: We are very proud of the strong relations linking the Great Jamahiriyah and Namibia in the various fields. He affirmed in his statement that after SWAPO won the elections Namibia was preoccupied with the proclamation of a free and soveriegn state which would join the Organization of African Unity, the organization of nonaligned countries and the United Nations in order to cooperate with all the peace-loving nations of the world.

Foreign Minister Receives Bulgarian Counterpart

LD2602214690 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee and International Cooperation Bureau meet this morning Philip Ishikov the deputy foreign minister of Bulgaria who is visiting Great Jamahiriyah nowadays.

During the meeting they discussed the means and methods of consolidating and developing the bilateral relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria in all sectors to achieve the common interests of both friendly countries.

The Bulgarian deputy foreign minister expressed his country's wish to advance its relations with Great Jamahiriyah to all fields to arrive at creating an active cooperation for the mutual benefits and cooperation in international matters of mutual interests.

Bahrain

Irish Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 23 Feb

JN2402102090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, 23 Feb (WAKH)—At the outset of a tour of the countries of the region, Irish Foreign Minister Mr. Gerard Collins arrived in Manama tonight from Budapest on a two-day visit to Bahrain, during which he will conduct talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, especially in the economic field.

Talks also will deal with the developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, especially Middle East issues, including the Palestine question, cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the EC, changes in the international arena, as well as issues of common concern.

Meets With Amir

JN2402102490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this morning received Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, who is visiting Bahrain.

The following attended: Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and the Irish ambassador to Bahrain.

The Irish minister told WAKH he, the amir, and the prime minister of Bahrain exchanged views on regional and international issues in light of the developments the world is witnessing. He said he reviewed with them bilateral relations in economic and trade fields, especially that Bahrain is considered an important economic center in the region.

He also said they reviewed relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] states and the EEC states. The Irish foreign minister, who currently chairs the EEC, added the ECC states have approved the Bahraini foreign minister's proposals on a meeting between the EEC and the GCC in Muscat on 17 March. Collins concluded he has handed over an invitation from Irish President Patrick Hillery to his highness the amir of Bahrain to visit Ireland.

Meets Counterpart, Departs

JN2402175090 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, Feb 24 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah met here today with Gerard Collins, Irish foreign minister and head of current session of the EC Council of Ministers.

The talks covered bilateral relations, current Arab and international developments, trade and economic cooperation between the EC and the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as issues of mutual interest.

The discussions also dealt with the developments in the Middle East, the European group's stance regarding the current situation in the occupied Arab lands and Lebanon, Israel's plans to resettle Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine and recent changes in East Europe. [Manama WAKH in English at 1600 GMT adds: "Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins left here today for Riyadh, following a two-day visit to Bahrain as a part of a tour of a number of states in the region."]

PDRY

Nu'man Meets With Djibouti President Aptidon

EA2302171090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today met Djibouti President Hasan Gouled Aptidon. The meeting covered bilateral cooperation between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing it in a manner that will achieve the joint aims of the two brotherly peoples. The brother prime minister stressed the importance of making every effort to make the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa secure, and to make it a zone of peace, security, and permanent stability.

He emphasized the relations of cooperation among the states in the area, which should deepen based on the supreme interests of the peoples of the area, and the need to ward off any dangers or factors that disturb the untroubled state of relations that exist among them.

He pointed out that the forthcoming united Yemeni state will constitute a true prop in the pillars of cooperation, peace, and stability for the peoples of the area.

The Djibouti president expressed his appreciation for the ongoing unionist steps between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland. He appreciated the level of growth in Djibouti-Yemeni relations and expressed the pride of his country and that of his people over the level of cooperation between the two brotherly countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Irish Foreign Minister Meets With Crown Prince

LD2502115890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdaalah Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince,

deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received this afternoon in his office at the royal court in al-Yamamah Palace his excellency the foreign minister of the Republic of Ireland, Mr. Gerald Collins, and the delegation accompanying him, who currently are paying a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2502155390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh 25 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, had a meeting in his office at the Foreign Ministry today with His Excellency Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins.

SPA has learned that during the meeting they discussed bilateral relations between the Kingdom and Ireland, and ways to strengthen and promote them.

They also reviewed political issues of common interest, particularly the Palestinian question, the intifadah of the Palestinian people, and international efforts for establishing a lasting and just peace in the region. Regarding this they reviewed the negative effects of growing Soviet Jewish immigration and settlement in occupied Palestine. They also reviewed the latest developments of the Lebanese crisis, the situation between Iran and Iraq, and current events in Eastern Europe.

They also examined the scope of Arab-European cooperation in the light of the results of the Arab-European dialogue conference conducted in Paris last December, in the hope the next meeting of the general committee for Arab-European dialogue due in Dublin in June will contribute to the founding of a constructive and practical basis for Arab-European cooperation.

Departs Riyadh 26 Feb

LD2602141690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Feb (SPA)—His excellency the foreign minister of the Republic of Ireland, Gerard Collins, and the delegation accompanying him, left Riyadh this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Pilgrimage

LD2402102390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 Feb. SPA—His Excellency Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister, arrived in Jeddah this morning on a visit to the Kingdom to perform a minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Agriculture Minister Arrives 25 Feb

LD2502235890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2315 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh 25 Feb (SPA)—His Excellency Dr. Yusuf Wali, the deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Riyadh this evening at the start of a several-day visit to the Kingdom, during which he will meet His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahaman al-Shaykh, the minister of agriculture and water. He also will visit a number of agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh, minister of agriculture and water; the Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom; and a number of officials.

Dr. Yusuf Wali explained his visit to the Kingdom comes in response to the recent visit to Egypt by Dr. 'Abd-Al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh.

In a statement to SPA before leaving Cairo today, Dr. Wali said his talks with his excellency the minister of agriculture and water will cover a number of scientific and technical subjects within the agricultural field.

'Aziz Meets With PLO's 'Arafat in Baghdad

JN2602184490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1808 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestine question, particularly the escalation of the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah against the occupation troops and the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian territories. The meeting also dealt with a number of Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by the deputy director of the Revolution Command Council's Arab Liberation Movements Bureau, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department, PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Mauritanian Minister Meets With Ramadan

JN2602160090 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 26, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today met the Mauritanian minister of fisheries and marine economy and head of the Mauritanian side to the Iraqi-Mauritanian joint committee Ahmed Ould Jiddou.

During the meeting, the Mauritanian minister conveyed the Mauritanian people and government's congratulations on the positive outcome of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) 4th summit which he said would contribute to serving the Arab nation's issues and aspirations.

The meeting also reviewed the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Signs Joint Cooperation Minutes

JN2602180090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Iraq and Mauritania today signed minutes for joint cooperation. The minutes were signed for Iraq by Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction, and for Mauritania by Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou, minister of fisheries and maritime economy.

The minutes call for broadening the horizons of cooperation in the fields of culture, economy, commerce, finance, agriculture, education and higher education, and youth affairs.

Leaves Baghdad 27 Feb

JN2702110390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou, Mauritanian minister of fisheries and maritime economy and head of the Mauritanian side to the Iraqi-Mauritanian joint committee, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a five-day visit to Iraq, during which he attended the joint committee meetings.

In a statement to INA, the Mauritanian minister expressed the Mauritanian people's appreciation for Iraq's aid to Mauritania in all fields.

Saddam Husayn Receives Call From King Husayn

JN2602152890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received a telephone call from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. They reviewed relations between the two brotherly countries and current Arab affairs.

Saddam Receives Call From Yemeni President

JN2602152690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received a phone call from his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. They reviewed relations between the two brotherly countries and current Arab affairs.

Palestinians Named to Talks; One Rejects Role

TA2702072990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] In the contacts between the United States, Egypt, and the PLO, there is talk about including in the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel Palestinians living abroad of their own free will. Our political correspondent Arye Golan has learned that among the candidates are two Palestinian professors living in France. One is Professor (Ilyas). [In a live telephone interview by Shalom Qital on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 27 February, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi says: "I do not think there is a Palestinian Prof. (Ilyas) in France. I believe whoever leaked the report to you simply does not know Arabic." Al-Tibi adds: "If I may make a guess, the reference is probably to Prof. (Ilyas Sunbar), a Palestinian researcher living in France."]

The name of a deportee, Dr. Taysir al-'Aruri, a member of the Palestinian Communist Party deported last year with three other Palestinians, has been mentioned. Al-'Aruri lives in France. The deportees were told at the time if they did not engage in terrorist activities for the following three years, the defense establishment would consider allowing their return.

Palestinian sources have told our political correspondent that in talks in Washington with Dennis Ross and John Kelly, representatives of the State Department, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash has rejected the proposal to represent East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation. The sources said Abu-'Ayyash said he lives in Ramallah and therefore cannot represent East Jerusalem.

Shamir Says 'No Desire' To Delay Peace Process

TA2602155590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[By Mikha'el Birenhack]

[Excerpts] Congratulations from the Alignment and from the left-wing parties, and attacks from the right—this was the reaction today in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to Prime Minister Shamir's statements.

Shamir told the committee members we have no desire to procrastinate or delay matters as far as they pertain to the furthering of our peace initiative. Shamir stressed the dialogue with the Palestinian delegation would be technical and confined only to election modalities.

Shamir told reporters the Cabinet and Inner Cabinet might have to make some decisions in the coming days, but that they would not be dramatic ones. He was asked about the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem residents in the Palestinian delegation.

[Begin Shamir recording] This is just one part of an overall package. This is a small detail. When we will have to decide on the next step, we will decide on everything. I do not have to give either a negative or positive answer regarding any tactical move. [end recording]

The prime minister also was questioned as to whether he had entertained any thoughts of retirement.

[Begin Shamir recording] I do not think I should retire. I do not believe this is the right time. Sometimes these thoughts enter my head. For personal and political reasons, I do not feel this is the time to relinquish the helm. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peres: Baker Proposals 'Definitely Acceptable'

TA2602162990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[By Yaron Toren]

[Text] A supportive crowd welcomed Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem. The vice prime minister supplied the answers most of the audience wanted to hear.

Peres told the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals are definitely acceptable to most of the Israeli public.

[Begin Peres recording, in English] We do not need to be urged or pushed or demanded.... [end recording]

[Toren interrupts, translates Peres' remarks, and continues] We ourselves desire negotiations with our Palestinian neighbors. The inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem residents and the agenda of the talks are not the main issues. The important thing is launching negotiations, Peres said.

The second issue, which Peres strongly linked to the political process, was immigration. At this point, Peres said the talk of greater Israel would not lead to a great immigration, adding it would be better if the immigrants settled in the Negev and the Galilee, and not in the territories.

[Begin Peres recording, in English] We are not going to add more settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and I am saying it clearly out loud because it.... [end recording]

[Toren interrupts, translates Peres' remarks, and continues] The government is composed of two parties that do not share the necessary consensus to continue establishing settlements.

One of the leaders of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations queried the vice prime minister on the continuing contacts to set up a narrow-based government. Peres replied he preferred a coalition with the religious and not with the Likud. Peres also said an agreement with the religious parties was within reach.

'Arafat Letter Termed 'Sign of Progress'

TA2602123690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Right of Return Is Open to Discussion"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's letter to the participants of the International Center for Middle East Peace convention in Jerusalem is yet another attempt by the PLO chairman to reach Israeli public opinion by going over the heads of the Cabinet ministers who categorically reject any direct dialogue with the PLO. In his message, bearing the letterhead state of Palestine, 'Arafat primarily addresses himself to the argument of the prime minister and other Likud spokesmen that the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation would be tantamount to paving the way for acceptance of the Palestinians' right of return. In the first statement of its kind, the PLO leader explains that although Palestinians consider the right of return sacred, they are prepared to discuss its application according to UN Security Council Resolution 194.

Of course, those who object to any form of negotiation with the PLO see 'Arafat's letter as an attempt to drive into the Israeli public consciousness a point against which there is an across-the-board consensus: the return of the Palestinian refugees. This is a narrow and dogmatic point of view which fails to see the PLO consistently has been inching away from its previous absolute noes.

The very declaration that this issue could be open to negotiation is a sign of progress and a display of 'Arafat's desire to bring about the opening of a dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Moreover, in his letter, 'Arafat confirms that Palestinians from the territories would be able to take part in the deliberations with Israel and says he hopes the talks will create a climate of trust conducive to an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat's letter comes at a time when Israel is being asked to give the United States its response regarding composition of the Palestinian delegation. The U.S. Administration may not be giving Shamir and his cabinet an ultimatum, but it certainly is showing impatience with Shamir's recurrent procrastinations. Time stopped being on Israel's side a long time ago. Instead of taking advantage of the expressions of moderation and the PLO's declared concessions in order to open a dialogue, there still are those who stick to outdated concepts, and this could bring the PLO's extreme flank to the fore.

Rabin: 'Extant Possibility' To Promote Peace

TA2602121090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's appearance before high school students in Rehovot on 26 February; passages within quotation marks are recorded remarks by Defense Minister Rabin]

[Text] The defense minister says the problem is not what any one party bureau decides. The opportunity which recently has been created must not be allowed to slip away.

"And today, after the foreign minister's visit to Washington and in light of what he brought back, I believe there is an Egyptian-Palestinian proposal that makes it possible to conduct a meeting of the three foreign ministers that will pave the way for the encounter between the two delegations—Palestinian and Israeli—in Cairo. I further believe this move enjoys the support of the Americans, and that there is profound understanding between the United States and Israel on what can be expected, in what framework, and under what conditions.

"The current problem, therefore, no longer lies in any decisions by party bureaus, but rather in the political reality, in conditions which have been presented as a possibility. It is this reality that should be decided upon, and I prefer the decision to be made with a view to an extant possibility and not as a result of an ongoing hypothetical argument among ourselves."

The conditions for decisionmaking now are ripe. The possibility of taking the first step exists, but the solution is in no one's pocket yet, says the defense minister.

"I believe we are drawing nearer to that moment. It can take a week or 12 days; I advise no one to time such an issue with a stopwatch. This opportunity, however, must not be allowed to slip away."

Minister Rabin adds no dialogue is possible without the Palestinians.

"Therefore, it is the fourth point—which comes down to the question of whether we will be able to reach a dialogue with the Palestinians—that will make or break the entire peace initiative, with all its four points. The peace with Egypt aside, there currently is no Arab partner with whom we can launch a peace process, except for the Palestinians of the territories."

Rabin adds: There is no justification for the government's existence if it does not promote the peace process. This is my criterion for staying on in the government.

Egyptian Ambassador on Palestinian Delegation

JN2502191090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by Bassam Jabir; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jabir] What are the latest world developments, especially in contacts between the United States, Egypt,

and Israel concerning the three-way meeting, about which there recently has been much talk?

[Basyuni] As you know, a meeting was conducted Friday [23 February] between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Mr. Moshe Arens in preparation for the three-way meeting. We hope the meeting between the three foreign ministers will be convened as soon as possible, so the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue can be conducted in Cairo, God willing. This depends, however, entirely on the Israeli Government's acceptance of the proposed criteria for the formation of the Palestinian delegation.

[Jabir] Mr. Ambassador, are you talking about the formation of the Palestinian delegation? How accurate are reports naming the members of the delegation? Egypt is said to have received a list of names from the PLO.

[Basyuni] Reports on names and presentation of lists merely are mines placed in the road of political activity to create confusion, especially at this particular time. I would like to make it absolutely clear no list has been provided. We, in Egypt, have nothing to conceal; our actions are in the open. All that can be said is we are discussing criteria for forming the delegation. In general terms, the delegation will not be based on other criteria. At any rate, this is a Palestinian issue, and the Palestinians are the party to choose the delegation.

[Jabir] Ambassador Basyuni, some say Egypt is conducting intensive contacts with Labor Party leaders in particular; that is, at the expense of the Likud. What do you say to this?

[Basyuni] Egypt deals with the Israeli Government as a whole. We do not distinguish between parties; that is an internal affair in which we do not interfere. But are the Labor ministers not members of the national unity government? Is this not true of the Likud ministers? We deal with the Israeli Government, and we never make distinctions between parties. What concerns us is progress in the peace process, because, as you know, Egypt's present and future strategy is one of peace. We are doing our best, therefore, to push forward the peace process, and in this we are dealing with the national unity government in its two parts, the Likud and the Alignment.

[Jabir] Thank you, Ambassador Basyuni.

[Basyuni] You are welcome.

2 Palestinians Mentioned in Arens-Baker Meeting

TA2402200590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The names of two Palestinians, candidates for participation in the Palestinian delegation, were raised in the meeting yesterday between James Baker and Moshe Arens, as well as in Minister Olmert's previous meetings in Washington. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned the reference is to a single deportee whose participation in the delegation is acceptable also to the Likud, as well as another Palestinian, apparently Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, whose office is in East Jerusalem.

The forum of four, which will convene tomorrow or Monday, will discuss these ideas. The ideas were consolidated in a meeting between President Mubarak, Yasir 'Arafat, and Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, who conveyed them to Ministers Peres and Rabin. If the ideas are approved, the United States will check the mentioned names with Egypt. If the check has positive results, the United States will invite the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to the tripartite meeting.

A political source says Baker in fact made it clear to Arens the United States will not give up on participation of an East Jerusalem resident and a Palestinian deportee. Baker also said the U.S. Administration will not add to the assurances already passed on to Israel, and the Israeli Government should decide on its attitude toward the Soviets' request to take part in the Cairo meeting.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is pressing Israel to provide a quick answer to his proposal on the opening of a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. In his talk with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday, Baker emphasized the time for progress has come, and Israel should reply shortly. Our correspondent in Washington, Ya'ir Stern, reports that according to State Department sources, Baker told Arens that Egypt and the Palestinians had agreed to his plan. He promised Arens that Israel would not conduct negotiations with the PLO, and personally reassured him that following the opening speeches, in which each party will present its plan, the talks in Cairo will focus only on Israel's plan for elections in the territories.

Our correspondent further has learned that in his talk with Arens, Baker suggested Israel try to concentrate on the names of Palestinian dignitaries it deems fit partners for negotiations, rather than deal with the question of whether or not deportees or East Jerusalem residents should be included in the Palestinian delegation.

Diplomatic sources in Washington said Minister Arens explained to Secretary Baker the delicate political situation in Israel, saying external pressure may affect the survival of the national unity government. Arens asked Baker to allow Prime Minister Shamir to solve the internal Israeli Government problems, explaining Shamir cannot make compromises now due to political developments in Israel.

Members of the foreign minister's party refused to comment on the content of the Arens-Baker meeting. It was only stated Arens will brief the prime minister on his meeting when he returns to Israel tomorrow afternoon. [Later in the program, Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew adds "in reaction to the television report on the talks he conducted in Washington, Minister Ehud Olmert wants to emphasize this report is unfounded.

According to Minister Olmert, he did not conduct any meeting on the details of the political negotiations."]

Shamir on U.S. Ties, Immigration, Peace Process

TA2302093890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 90 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzaq Shamir by David Makovsky and Moshe Kohn; date, place not given]

[Text] Q. The Likud Central Committee is behind us, and the focus returns to Mideast diplomacy. What sympathy do Israeli positions have in the U.S. administration, from President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker?

A. I cannot judge sympathies and antipathies. You (journalists) can do that. We have very good relations with the U.S. Government. There are those things we agree upon, and those things we do not agree upon. We are getting very serious help from the United States, especially on this issue of Soviet Jewish immigration. We cannot even begin to estimate the amount of help we have gotten from the United States. The United States has done more for Soviet Jewish aliya than any other government in the world, and the Republican administrations (of Reagan and Bush) have done what no other administration has done for Israel.

Q. The Bush administration?

A. The Republican administrations, the Reagan administration and now the Bush administration is continuing it. (Former U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz used to tell us that he never began a discussion with a Soviet representative without first asking, "what about the exodus of Soviet Jews?" He did not just talk about aliya, as he was a believer in "freedom of choice." But he fought for Soviet Jewish emigration. Today he is happy. I recently received a letter from him saying that he is happy to hear there is a lot of immigration.

And now Bush personally asked Gorbachev to allow direct flights, and instructed Baker to do so on his recent trip to Moscow. He also asked Baker to talk to Shevardnadze on anti-Semitism in Russia. Which head of government in the world would talk to the Russians on these things? Only the President of the United States and the secretary of state. There were a lot of recent visits of heads of government to the Soviet Union. Who spoke to Gorbachev and Shevardnadze about Soviet Jewish aliya? Therefore, we are very grateful to Bush and Baker, as we were before to Reagan and Shultz. They are doing a great thing. This is despite Arab pressure.

There are things we do not agree on with the U.S. Government. For example, the establishment of settlements. On this, there is no agreement. It is an old thing. There was also no agreement with the Reagan administration. But it has not harmed the advancement of friendly ties between both countries. The principal in our relations with the United States is that there is friendship, common interests, and joint strategic cooperation, despite the differences of opinion on certain subjects. So there are differences of opinion. I mentioned one of them, settlements. Okay, so there are differences of opinion.

Q. You mentioned strategic cooperation. There are those who say that given the changes in Eastern Europe now, the strategic value of Israel has dropped.

A. There are big changes. Everything is being reexamined. What are the U.S. strategic interests towards the Soviet Union? What are the U.S. strategic interests in Europe, in the Mideast? Are the Europeans interested in an American army in Europe? I think the United States, as the greatest power in the world, still has very important interests in the Mideast. If it has interests, it needs partners, trustworthy partners. The most trustworthy partner the United States has in this part of the world is always Israel. It has no more trustworthy partner, trustworthy and loyal. It isn't dependent upon internal political developments in Israel.

There are no differences of opinion in Israel on ties with the United States. In Italy, Greece, Turkey—among the states nearby—and Arab states, there can be domestic differences on ties with the United States. In Israel, there are no differences. All the Jews want good relations with the United States. The strategic cooperation will continue. Certainly, there will be other areas of cooperation, but it is hard to know now. It does not have to be against the Soviet Union.

Q. The Labour ministers have just said that they want the inner cabinet to decide within the next two to three weeks on the peace process. What do you think of this timetable?

A. I do not get excited, or taken aback. It is clear that if there is an American proposal to Israel that is related to a deal between the Israelis and Palestinians, we will bring it to the inner cabinet. The cabinet must decide. I do not know if such an American proposal will come either in a week or a month. I do not know if there is already a proposal, one that is ready. I do not know if there is an agreement between the Americans and the Arabs. If there is an American proposal, it will be brought to the inner cabinet, and we will decide.

I do not understand what we have to discuss in the inner cabinet, as long as there is no proposal. Do we have to run after the Arabs to propose to them all sorts of concessions before there is some organized proposal? What logic is there to this?

Q. Do you rule out for inclusion in the Palestinian delegation deportees who have no background in terror and who are registered in the West Bank population registry?

A. We have an Israeli diplomatic initiative accepted by the government. I stand behind every word written in

that initiative. I'll support it. If there is a proposal that runs contrary to the initiative, I'll oppose it.

Q. Does the inclusion of deportees run contrary to the initiative?

A. We will see the proposal. I have not seen it yet.

Q. What about the compromise regarding the inclusion of Palestinians who have two homes, one in the West Bank and one in East Jerusalem?

A. I do not know what is being discussed. About 50 per cent of Arabs living in East Jerusalem have homes and property in Judaea and Samaria. Fifty per cent. So what is there to talk about? In general, East Jerusalem Arabs do not have to participate in the whole agreement between Israel and Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as East Jerusalem is not connected to the issue of autonomy.

After all, our whole proposal is continuation of the Camp David accords. When we started to negotiate on autonomy, the government led by Mr. Begin said East Jerusalem Arabs will not participate in electing the leaders of autonomy. A decision was taken in September 1982. If you want, this decision still binds us until this day, as the Israeli government has never nullified the decision.

Once we agree that East Jerusalemites can vote for elections in Judaea and Samaria, it will not remain in the territory of Israel. Kissinger said the same thing.

Q. What about those 50 per cent of East Jerusalem residents who also live in the West Bank? They are not rejected?

A. As long as they are residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. People living in Jerusalem cannot participate in the elections. My position is quite clear. I said so in my recent speech before the Likud Central Committee, to wit: the matter at hand has no bearing on Arabs living in East Jerusalem. For what is the matter at hand? We are talking about meeting with a delegation of Palestinians—residents of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza—to discuss elections. Since the Arabs living in East Jerusalem have no connection to the matter, why should they participate in the delegation?

But the fact that a person is a resident of Jerusalem and has property elsewhere, does this qualify him, does this make him "kosher"?

Q. In your view this does not qualify him.

A. Definitely not.

Q. Vice Premier Shim'on Peres is of the opinion that if the Soviet Union renews diplomatic ties with Israel, it should be eligible to participate in the Cairo talks.

A. First let them renew relations and then we'll negotiate.

Q. Do you rule out Soviet participation?

A. No, I don't reject it. Let's negotiate.

Q. Defence Minister Rabin and Peres say that the Palestinian delegation should be able to consult with whomever it wishes in the course of the Cairo talks. Do you agree?

A. This means that they agree that we should negotiate with the PLO. In other words, negotiations with the PLO. The government of Israel, in launching its peace initiative, decided not to negotiate with the PLO. That's it in a nutshell.

Q. Is there anything the PLO could do that would make it acceptable as a partner to the talks?

A. No. The only thing it should do is dismantle itself. Because its minimal demand is a Palestinian state. And a Palestinian state cannot co-exist with Israel. The moment a Palestinian state were to be established, it would be very dangerous for the survival of Israel. If that were to happen, the Israeli Arabs, Israel's Arab citizens, would act to become part of the Palestinian state. It's only natural. And that's the PLO plan. The intifada would relocate itself here. They have said so explicitly. That's the PLO plan.

Q. What do you say to a Palestinian who says he's willing to accept an interim settlement, but wants to know, given your ideology on Eretz Yisra'el, what stake has he in it?

A. Our initiative should be the framework for any negotiations. We say that today it would be difficult—impossible—to reach an agreement on the final status. We want it to be part of Israel; they want it to be part of a Palestinian state. Let's create the framework for negotiations; let's institute autonomy for a few years and see how it develops. Let's see the nature of the relations that develop between Israel and the Palestinians.

It might turn out that we like this arrangement and that there's cooperation. In the third year, we would negotiate without setting preconditions, without any advance commitment. Each side can then demand what it wants, and we'll negotiate on it. And we'll negotiate until an agreed-upon solution is reached. It's as simple as that.

I have no prior commitment to accept territories for peace and all that sort of thing. There should only be one precondition: both sides must want to reach an agreed-upon solution. They must be determined in their aspirations for peace. And maybe, with time, they will arrive at a solution that will be acceptable to both sides.

Q. According to your ideology, how will Palestinian nationalism realize itself? King Husayn takes very seriously the statements made by some members of the Likud, to the effect that Jordan is Palestine.

A. He apparently believes in the logic therein. Some of us (in the Likud) believe that that's the way things are going to be. But we are not about to do anything to make it so. Nobody in Israel today would think to attack Jordan. And I believe that everything the Jordanian government

says about attacks, and dangers, this is all nightmarish imagination, or drummed up. It's intended to rouse hostility against Israel, and stir up the Arab states to help Jordan. Israel has no aggressive intentions against Jordan or King Husayn.

Q. What do you see as the future of the Hashemite kingdom? Do you believe that Jordan will eventually become a Palestinian state?

A. Perhaps, I don't know. The residents of Jordan will decide. It's not our decision.

Q. Rabin said this week that the eastern front does not pose a danger to Israel because of the bitter enmity that exists between Iraq and Syria. Do you agree? Do you think an accommodation can be reached with Iraq?

A. I'm not a political commentator. Rabin has a weakness for political commentary. There is no eastern front. This is a fact. I don't need to look for ways of reviving it. There are conflicts between the Arabs. The fact that they all hate us is well known. The fact that they are opposed to aliya is also known. The stronger we are, the better the prospects for peace. In order for there to be a front, the Arabs must be at peace with each other and want war with Israel.

To date, Iraq's biggest enemy is Iran. It's true there's a cease-fire, but they haven't finished the war. They haven't begun peace talks. We cannot envision that their differences will be reconciled. Both Iraq and Iran are arming themselves and preparing for the next war. If Iraq is considering war, it's thinking about its own eastern front.

Q. So you're not worried about Saddam Husayn's growing power?

A. I'm concerned about the growing power of any Arab country, because up to now it has been used against us, and there is no state of peace.

Q. There are signals emanating from Syria that it has moderated its hatred toward Israel due to reports of decreasing Soviet support.

A. Al-Asad has not moderated his stance. However, because of the changes taking place in Eastern Europe there is less chance that he will reach strategic parity with Israel.

Q. Does that mean that there is a greater chance of accommodation?

A. Ideologically, there is no change. To Syria, Israel is an enemy that must be destroyed. But now, perhaps, they see this goal as being more distant.

Q. Do you foresee talks in the next year or two?

A. I am prepared to talk to them, but they have to want to hold these talks.

Q. What message can you give the Jewish people to rally them to the challenge of Soviet aliya and aliya in general?

A. The Jewish people must concentrate all its efforts, and all its capabilities on absorbing the Soviet aliya. It must bring and settle the maximum number of Soviet Jews here by the end of the century. We must subjugate all the other problems, political and social problems, to this task. I propose that all the leaders of Israel should deal solely with Soviet aliya. It is a big and difficult task.

Q. The word "big" caused a storm in the world... (referring to a statement Shamir made last month that a "big" Israel is needed to settle Soviet Jews).

A. It is an artificial storm. What did I say? I did not tie settlements to aliya. Not one word. I said a big aliya needs a strong state. That is all I said. I didn't even use the term a "big Israel," although nothing is wrong with that. You cannot make Israel bigger than it is. You cannot change the geography. We'll always remain a small state. What can I do about that? Therefore I do not use the expression, a "big Israel," because Israel is not big. It can only be big in spirit, and perhaps in economics. But in geography it is not big.

Q. Did party considerations take precedence over other matters when you made that speech?

A. (Raising his voice) I never mentioned territories in that speech... The Arabs will always find pretexts, they will always find excuses. They have always fought aliya. If they did not find this, they would have found something else. Their whole war against Israel, their main war against Israel, since the beginning of immigration has been against aliya. In every intifada that they have every waged, during the 20s, 30s, and 40s, their demand has been to halt aliya. Today, their demand is a Palestinian state and eliminating Israeli control, then, there was no Jewish state. The British ruled then. Their main demand was always halting aliya—halting aliya and halting the sale of lands. Thank God, these problems do not exist today. We have aliya.

Q. What do you tell a Soviet Jew who wants to immigrate, but hears that he has to wait a year to leave because there are no direct flights? He might be frightened by reports of anti-Semitism.

A. He should come.

Q. How will he come?

A. We will help him come. We are doing everything we can, and it keeps getting better.

Q. Do you anticipate direct flights from the Soviet Union to Israel this year?

A. If there were direct flights, we would be able to take the Soviet Jews out easier and faster. Today, the Soviets tell us that they cannot allow direct Aeroflot flights, because of Arab pressure. This is their only concession, capitulation to the Arabs. They tell the Arabs that no

amount of pressure will make them change their policy on free emigration. And indeed, this (lack of direct flights) really limits the scope of the aliya, but we'll overcome it.

Q. What about flights via Eastern Europe?

A. There are all sorts of ways. There are more possibilities every day. There are people who come by train, even people who come by bus.

Q: In saying that we must get the Soviet Jews here by the end of the century, you're implying that there is no immediate danger of anti-Semitism.

A: The end of the century is only 10 years away, that's not very much time. And even if we make every possible effort we will not succeed in taking out all the Soviet Jews within that time. There are three million Jews living in the Soviet Union and it would be physically impossible to bring them all—even if we were to "turn somersaults" and miracles were to occur. If we manage to get one million out, that will be a great achievement.

If you ask the new Soviet immigrants, they'll tell you that there are Jews who will remain there. We are still living with the tragic experience of the Holocaust. However, not everywhere where there is anti-Semitism must there be a holocaust. We must distinguish: there were progroms in the Soviet Union in the 19th century, and yet there remained a large Jewish population. We're doing everything we can to get the Jews out, but it can't be done with words, or even prayers.

Q: What is your opinion about the unification of Germany? Do you have any apprehensions about it?

A: It's understandable that there are apprehensions, after all that has happened to the Jewish people in Germany in this century. It's understandable that every Jewish heart worries whenever Germany gets stronger. We would like to see something that would allay these fears.

Q: Haven't we seen efforts on their part in the past 30 years?

A: Yes, but this doesn't completely erase everything. Our relations with Germany are now pretty good. We don't have any particular complaints against the West Germany of today. But we cannot forget the past. To this day, we can feel in our flesh what Germany did to us. As of now we are not familiar with East Germany. We have relations with West Germany, but we don't maintain any ties with East Germany.

Q: Shouldn't we give some thought to the future, and consider all that Germany has done to return to the family of nations?

A: We're not opposed to that. I carried on an exchange of letters with (West German chancellor Helmut) Kohl and I explained our apprehensions to him, which result from the past which we can't ignore. At the same time we appreciate what present-day Germany has done and is still doing to this very day.

Q: Do you consider former industry and trade minister Ari'el Sharon a dangerous man?

A: I don't carry out public arguments with Likud members.

Q: How do you expect to put the party's house in order, considering that Yitzhaq Moda'i is organizing a faction? Do you think he might join a narrow-based Labour coalition?

A: I hope they won't quit. We don't have the means of forcing people to remain. I think that in putting our house in order we will elect bodies and complete the Likud's constitution. We haven't had time to deal with this because of the unification (of Herut with the Liberals). Many of our difficulties are due to the fact that we don't have a constitution. To date, only one entity has been elected, and that's me. We have to elect our institutions and then matters will be conducted on a democratic basis and won't depend on one particular person or another.

Q: Do you think the Moda'i group will leave the Likud?

A: I hope not. They say they don't want to. I don't know.

Q: Is a narrow, Labour-based government possible?

A: In politics anything is possible.

Q: Peres, in a recent briefing for reporters, said he favours direct elections for prime minister.

A: Did he say that?

Q: Yes, he did.

A: The Likud hasn't decided on it, but I am very much in favour of direct elections.

Q: In your opinion, if there were a coalition crisis and the government were to be prematurely dismantled, would the two major parties cooperate in approving direct elections for prime minister?

A: Israel must strengthen its executive branch. This could do it. The municipal government serves as a good example. Ever since we decided on direct elections for mayors, the situation has improved. This is because the mayor has more authority and doesn't hear about daily political crises. Therefore, direct elections for the prime minister can only be a change for the better.

Q: Isn't the Likud also committed to constituency elections? However the Likud has done nothing in the Knesset to bring this about.

A: The Likud and Labour have not reached a final agreement on the matter. There are differences of opinion. It would not lead to any revolutionary change as

Israel is a small country. There are no geographically-based interests here as in the U.S. where every state is huge. Such interests are not of great importance at present, but that too will come.

Q: The Likud ran its last election campaign, as well as the previous ones, with the promise of a free market. However, you as prime minister have apparently abdicated all economic leadership. Not only do they say that Israel is unprepared for 1992 (the year slated for European market integration), but you have done virtually nothing to fulfill your promise, and Israel is still run by monopolies and protectionist policies.

A: In Israel there is a national unity government. Today responsibility for the economic side is in the hands of the other partner, Labour. In Israel, there is a tradition that all economic matters are in the hands of the finance minister. The Treasury conducts all the economic ministries. This is the situation today. Therefore they are still influenced by socialist policies.

Peres says he's all for a free market, but nothing is done to put it into practice.

POST Urges U.S. To Promote 'Whole' Peace Plan

TA2502130290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Which Peace Plan?"]

[Text] There is a little disingenuousness in the report from the State Department that Secretary Baker had urged Foreign Minister Arens on Thursday to show some sincere effort in advancing Israel's own peace plan. Mr. Baker seems to have forgotten that the Administration itself has scuttled three-fourths of that plan.

The election proposal is only the fourth point in a package which calls for negotiations on settling inhabitants of the refugee camps which are under Israel control, the normalization of relations with Arab countries leading to peace talks, and progress in normalizing relations with Egypt. (How far from normal these are was demonstrated last week: An Egyptian poet was prevented from attending a poetry festival in Israel, and the Egyptian deputy foreign minister blamed Prime Minister Shamir's policies for the territorist attack on the tourist bus near Ismailia.)

Linking peace talks with the Arab states to settling the Palestinian problem reflects the traditional Israel concept that that problem is a result, rather than the cause, of the Arab-Israel conflict, that the root of this conflict is the Arab states' rejection of Israel's presence in the Middle East. This concept implicitly recognizes the futility of negotiating with the Palestinians without taking at least the first steps towards peace with the heavily armed Arab states which are still at war with Israel. But Egypt seems to have convinced the State Department that, once the Palestinian problem is "solved," that is, once Israel withdraws to the '67 lines, all will fall into place.

The very thought that Israel's withdrawal will prompt Syria, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to disarm and make peace is laughable. But by acquiescing in separating the election proposal from the rest of its own peace plan, Israel is in danger of falling into the trap of a purely "Palestinian" solution. This will inevitably lead not to local elections and autonomy, but to negotiations—however camouflaged—with the PLO, a Palestinian state and confrontation with the Arab states from an inferior position.

It would be comforting to think that Mr. Arens responded to Mr. Baker's urging by suggesting that some sincere effort to implement the Israel peace plan would indeed be welcome. The whole plan.

Shamir, Peres To Rotate Labor Portfolio

TA2402125390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor and Social Welfare Affairs portfolio will be held in trust and will not be assigned a full-time minister. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Ministers Shahal and Meridor reached a final agreement whereby the portfolio will be rotated every six months between the prime minister and the vice prime minister. Seeing that on 1 April it will have been six months since the resignation of Ze'ev Moshe Feldman, formerly in charge of the portfolio on behalf of Agudat Yisra'el, and that Mr. Shamir has been in charge of it ever since, the portfolio will be given to Minister Shim'on Peres. For his part, Mr. Peres may entrust it to Minister Without Portfolio Refa'el Edri.

As for the Alignment's demand to link the various Cabinet appointments to a promise to reinstate 'Ezer Weizman to the Inner Cabinet, Minister Meridor said the prime minister's response had been negative. Hayim Ramon, head of the Alignment Knesset faction, warned this week his faction would not endorse the new appointments unless the Weizman affair was settled.

Rabin Notes 'Interest' in Continued Husayn Rule

TA2702081890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said Israel has an interest in the continuation of King Husayn's regime. He sharply attacked the talk about a Palestinian state to replace Jordan, and said whoever does not want an eastern front against Israel should not contribute to weakening King Husayn. A new regime in Jordan would be worse, because Husayn would be replaced by the PLO or the Muslim extremists. The defense minister was addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 27 February reports on Rabin's appearance before the same audience, adding Rabin said "if there are practical proposals for beginning negotiations, we must not be the obstacle. We have reached the point where the first step toward peace can be taken, and we now are living in decisive times. Referring to the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the defense minister reiterated: They must be registered as inhabitants of the territories, but they can have a room or office in East Jerusalem."]

Shamir: No Aggression Intended Against Jordan

TA2602181390 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Ganor in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 26 February—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ganor] ....on the Cairo meeting.

[Shamir] It is too early to talk about that. It still requires discussions and clarifications. We soon will know if there will be such a meeting. It would be an exaggeration to regard a tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers as a breakthrough.

[Ganor] The talk in Israel about Jordan as an alternative state for the Palestinians has aroused concern on the eastern side of the Jordan. Can you comment on that?

[Shamir] I only can say today, as someone who plays a key role in the affairs of state, that Israel has no intention of carrying out any aggressive move against Jordan. All the talk in Jordan about a danger emanating from Israel is baseless. Israel is interested in peaceful relations with all its neighbors.

[Ganor] What about the possibility the eastern front will be revived?

[Shamir] I already have said: the eastern front is an expression associated with a war situation. We are interested in peace.

Shamir: 'Hatred' Behind Arab 'War' on Immigration

TA2602174590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir this evening said there is only one source and reason for the war waged by the Arabs against immigration to Israel and that is hatred. During a meeting with the chairman of the Dutch Liberal Party, Shamir said Egypt and Jordan are leading the battle against immigration, which does not coincide with their professed desire for peace.

The visitors from the Netherlands expressed their support for the prime minister's efforts to implement the Israeli peace initiative.

Cabinet on Appointments, 'Threat' to Jordan, Iraq

TA2502123290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Today's Cabinet meeting, conducted shortly before Foreign Minister Arens' return from the United States, was briefer than usual. There apparently was nothing to discuss. A discussion of last week's appointments followed the security reviews. Minister Sharon's resignation resulted in three appointments, one of which—Moshe Qatzav's to the Inner Cabinet—was slated to come up today for approval. The lack of agreement on the labor and social affairs portfolio, however, prevented the approval of this appointment today. It is possible this appointment, as well as Moshe Nisim's as industry and trade minister and David Magen's as minister without portfolio, will be raised for approval in a telephone poll among the ministers during the week.

Still on the subject of appointments, the Labor Party ministers demanded Minister 'Ezer Weizman's reinstatement to the Inner Cabinet. Prime Minister Shamir was firm and unequivocal on this issue—a categorical no. The agreement between Minister Rabin and myself on this issue is valid and in effect, Shamir said. According to Shamir, there is documentary evidence to support the reasons that led to Weizman's removal from the Inner Cabinet. The attorney general's opinion, the prime minister said, refers only to the admissibility of the evidence in court. [passage omitted]

As for security-political issues, Jordanian and Iraqi reactions to the issue of the Israeli threat triggered comments by several ministers. Minister Mordekhay Gur called on the government to conduct an immediate discussion of the issue. He also wanted the government to make clear Israel has no offensive intentions against Jordan. Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Navon followed suit, saying that using every channel at its disposal, Israel officially and publicly should announce it has no offensive intentions against Jordan, that it does not intend to direct immigrants to the territories, and it honors Jordan's independence.

As for the Israeli Government's peace initiative, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will land in Israel in a few hours and will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Tel Aviv early this evening to brief him.

VOA Station Role To Fight 'Global Intifadah'

TA2602122790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 p 19

[Commentary by Erol Guiney: "High-Power Radio"]

[Text] The nature lovers who recently staged various acts of protest against establishment of the U.S. radio station in the 'Arava included some who argued the dramatic developments in the international arena obviate the

need for such a station. I would not presume to pass judgment on how justified these experts are in their ecological demands, but I dare say their arguments on the political-media level basically are wrong. The said developments only increase the need for the station and its attendant benefits.

All this is one condition: that the broadcasts from the 'Arava do not reflect a cold war mentality and do not portray every failure of Moscow as a victory for the West and every Soviet achievement as a danger to the Free World. If the new station describes the current situation as it is in 28 different languages, and if it presents the new forces emerging in the wake of the upheavals in East Europe in their proper light, it will be making a very important contribution. Moreover, under the present circumstances—in view of the bitter ethnic rivalries, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, and other jarring phenomena in the Soviet Union—the Kremlin leaders also would seem to be interested in the establishment of the station. In other words, yesterday's enemies face a common threat today that requires a certain measure of cooperation.

It already has been said we are witnessing "a global intifadah." From Kosovo in Yugoslavia through Kashmir in India, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—not to mention Eritrea and Lebanon—Muslims and non-Muslims are engaged in a bitter confrontation. Iranian broadcasts and emissaries exacerbate this confrontation, and it only is natural "our" intifadah should fit in.

The need to calm the situation would seem to be an interest shared by all the Western countries and the Soviet Union. It is easy to see this also would be an Israeli interest. A new Muslim bloc of independent and semi-independent countries, where the majority of the people speak Turkish and are hostile to Israel, in keeping with the Arab model, moreover, appears to be a very worrisome prospect.

We must do everything we can to prevent this prospect from becoming a reality, and the station in the 'Arava can play an important role in such an endeavor. If the station brings the tidings of democracy to its target audience, and if its location helps foster political, religious, and ethnic tolerance among the vast multitude of our neighbors, we undoubtedly will have benefited.

That is why, perhaps, we would be well advised to approach the U.S. Senate subcommittee that has begun discussing the matter and present it with two demands: first, to allow the Voice of Israel to use the high-powered transmitters to relay some of its programs; second, to be careful not to portray U.S. society and the U.S. Administration as the only models deserving emulation. Seeing that we want the democratic effort to succeed, we must demand the transmissions reflect one of the most basic tenets of the democratic system: that each nation has the right to find its own way according to the conditions both in and around it. Without that right, the free West probably will not be able to attain its objectives.

UN Labor Group Receives Arab Employment Data

TA2602124590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Feb 90 p B2

[By Yosi Grinstein]

[Text] The unemployment rate in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip stands at four and a half percent compared with nine percent inside the Green Line. This data was relayed yesterday by Employment Services Director General David Mena' to representatives of the UN International Labor Organization who have come to Israel to prepare a survey on the employment of Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Heads of the organization complained Arabs are employed under discriminatory and exploitative conditions.

Mena' said that since 1967, 28 government employment agencies have been established in the territories, and that the unemployment rate dropped from 15 percent to four and a half percent. Residents of the territories employed in Israel constitute six and a half percent of the Israeli labor force and 35 percent of the working contingent in the territories.

The breakdown of the employment of territories workers in Israel is as follows: 53 percent in construction; 14 percent in industry; 12 percent in agriculture; 21 percent in other jobs.

Army Reports 14 Injured in Gaza Strip Clashes

TA2602184990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpt] There were violent disturbances in Rafah in the Gaza Strip today. Reporter Mark Weiss says the trouble started when residents defied an Army curfew to take to the streets to mark the death of a 20-year-old local resident Iyad Abu-Hamas, killed yesterday during clashes with soldiers. The Army said 14 residents were lightly injured. Local sources put the casualty figure much higher. The Army used a helicopter to disperse rioters with tear gas. The Army also reported that a resident of al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was lightly wounded during clashes today. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Report 1 Dead, 20 Wounded 25 Feb

TA2602093490

[Editorial Report] In a page 10 report by Joel Greenberg and ITIM, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 26 February writes that "troops shot and killed a Palestinian and wounded at least 20 others in clashes yesterday in the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed the death and six casualties.

"Iyad al-Hamas, 20, of Rafah, died at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer after he was shot and critically wounded in violent confrontations with soldiers." "Another seven persons" were reported wounded in Rafah.

"Khalid Jarbu', 27, of the al-Burayj refugee camp, was shot in the chest and seriously wounded, and also evacuated to Tel Hashomer.

"The Ramallah military court sentenced 'Atallah Na'san, 31, of al-Mughayyir to life imprisonment for shooting to death a fellow villager he suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 26 February adds that the Ramallah military court "also sentenced to 27 years in jail three residents of the village of Nu'aymah near Ramallah. They were convicted of murdering another Arab, also for aiding Israel."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 26 February reports: "Last night the security forces sealed the home of a resident of Singil near Ramallah. He was suspected of involvement in terrorist attacks. A curfew was imposed this morning on several Rafah neighborhoods and adjacent refugee camps in the wake of yesterday's disturbances. The Army has lifted the naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip in the wake of the shots at a patrol near Bayt Hanun."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 26 February adds: "The houses of three residents of Bayt Lahiyah in the northern Gaza Strip were demolished by the security forces last night. The three were suspected of murdering a local resident while violently interrogating him about allegedly immoral conduct."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 February, in a page A1 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin, states "almost no violent events were registered yesterday in the West Bank. The IDF operated in Qallil, Rujayb, Husan, and in the Ayda, Balatah, and 'Askar refugee camps. This was reported by Palestinian sources. A Qalandiyah refugee camp school was closed for one week."

Writing about the 25 February incidents in the territories, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 26 February, in a page 6 report by Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem, says "the Ohana family and some 100 settlers from Hebron and Qiryat Arba' yesterday marked the seventh anniversary of the death of soldier Esther Ohana, who was killed by a stone in al-Zahiriyah. They carried flags of Israel and of the state of Judaea, and the family said prayers.

A general strike declared by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was conducted yesterday in the territories. The strike protested the fire about one and a half months ago in the Burin mosque in Nabulus. Only 10 percent of the Gaza Strip workers left for work in Israel."

Husayn Begins Gulf Tour, Departs for Kuwait

JN2602152790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 26 Feb (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman at noon today for sisterly Kuwait—the first leg of a Gulf tour that will take him to Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

His majesty will discuss with the leaders of these countries Arab developments and bilateral ties. Accompanying his majesty the king on the tour are the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Editorial Addresses 'Importance' of Gulf Support

JN2702104590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Husayn's Tour and Crucial Issues"]

[Text] With his arrival in Kuwait and his talks with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, His Majesty King Husayn yesterday began an Arabian Gulf tour as part of an effective Jordanian move led by his majesty to forge a unified Arab stance in the face of the challenges and dangers posing threats to our Arab nation and its future generations.

This tour comes on the heels of the quadripartite summit conducted by the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] leaders. This summit stressed the need to build this unified Arab stance to face up to the dangers of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine—dangers that not only affect the Palestinian Arab territories and people. No, these dangers also affect Jordan and all Arab states.

The talks of His Majesty King Husayn in Kuwait and other Gulf states will deal with bilateral ties, pan-Arab issues, and international developments, as well as their repercussions on the Arab world. His majesty the king, moreover, will brief his brothers the Arabian Gulf leaders on the positive outcome of the Amman quadripartite summit.

The coordination and consultations conducted among the ACC member states' leaders during the summit meetings and also during telephone conversations yesterday were needed badly to make a common assessment of the issues under consideration, particularly Jewish emigration, supporting the Palestinian intifadah, the Iraq-Iran situation, the Lebanese crisis, and encroachment on Arab waters.

There is no doubt the grave dangers and far-reaching challenges facing the Arab nation and posing threats to its present and future generations require conducting an emergency Arab summit. The proposed summit must discuss all the issues mentioned above. Good and proper preparations must be made for this summit. On top of these preparations would be a clearing of Arab atmospheres and putting an end to marginal and secondary disputes among Arab states. Besides, the Arabs are required to rise up to the level of the pan-Arab responsibility dictated by regional developments and events.

The ties binding Jordan to its Gulf brothers are fraternal, strong, and special. They are based on joint responsibility, solidarity, and cooperation. Jordan is confronting the Zionist danger in defense of the Arab lands extending from the Ocean to the Gulf. The dangers posed by Jewish immigration jeopardize not only Palestine and Jordan. These dangers also undermine the stability of the entire Arab homeland. As for the fraternal Gulf states, they never will be spared this imminent danger. Out of an awareness of this danger and of the requirements dictated by their national and pan-Arab sentiments and duties, the Arabian Gulf states persistently have shown an eagerness to enhance and bolster Jordan's steadfastness and also to support the Palestinian intifadah in the face of the Zionist occupiers. These states undoubtedly feel now more than ever the importance of continuing this support for Jordan, which is defending the heart of the Arab homeland displaying valor and steadfastness.

Hungarian State Secretary Meets Foreign Minister

JN2602161490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 26 Feb (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office at noon today Ferenc Somogyi, secretary of state at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, currently visiting Jordan.

He reviewed Middle East developments with Somogyi, noting the positive Arab and Palestinian attitude toward peace moves in the Middle East and stressing the need for intensified efforts to convene the UN-sponsored international conference.

Al-Qasim explained Jordan's stand on the danger inherent in the exodus of Soviet Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to occupied Arab territory, emphasizing that facilitating their emigration should make it even more difficult to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East. He further pointed out that giving a human rights dimension to the emigration issue is a fallacy, as it does not stand to reason that the human rights of one person be promoted by violating the human rights of others in their own homeland.

Somogyi said his country will continue to support the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to self-determination.

Somogyi arrived in Amman earlier in the morning heading a delegation on a two-day visit to Jordan.

Confers With House Speaker

JN2702071790 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Middle East developments and the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel were the focus of discussions by the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sulayman

'Arar, and the visiting Hungarian Foreign Ministry secretary of state, General Ferenc Somogyi.

Mr. 'Arar said one of the most important results of U.S.-Soviet rapprochement was allowing thousands of Soviets Jews to immigrate to Israel, thus posing a grave danger to Arab countries. He said the Arabs were surprised by Hungary's quick decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel. Mr. 'Arar voiced hope that Hungary would not become a gateway for Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

The Hungarian official said his country's position called for a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East conflict based on a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of Palestinian people's rights, including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

The Hungarian official also conferred with his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi. They discussed relations between Jordan and Hungary and ways of promoting them, as well as the position of the two countries towards the issues of the region and world developments.

Our reporter Maha al-Sha'ir had the following interview with the Hungarian diplomat:

[Begin Somogyi recording] We are very much interested in seeing a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the long-outstanding problem of the Middle East crisis, the Palestinian issue. And we do want to maintain the position which we have represented for many many years, which is in support of a search for this comprehensive solution, which is in support of the Palestinian efforts, and in fact, in the efforts and endeavors of the Arab nations. We understand, and this is a major point in our position, that the core of the problem in the Middle East is the Palestinian issue, and the major problem is the position, the situation in the West Bank that should be solved in a process aiming at reaching a solution acceptable to all the parties, based on the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied since 1967, based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to establish a state of their own and ensuring the possibility for all the states to live in peace and within secure boundaries in the region. That has been the Hungarian position, and that will be the Hungarian position as we have stated on several occasions in multilateral fora and in bilateral channels what we have with our partners. [end recording]

Columnist on Arab Measures To Bar Immigration

JN2602160990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Feb 90 p 24

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Because It Is a Most Beautiful Country"]

[Text] It is natural for us to warn against the danger of Jewish emigration, particularly from the Soviet Union, and mobilize our national political forces and those of our friends in the world to confront the dangers of this emigration. But what we always forget in our pan-Arab issues is the question: How? This is our problem when we talk about Arab unity, Arab solidarity, confronting foreign aggression, safeguarding Arab waters, or about development, progress, the importance of the transfer of technology, the establishment of scientific research centers, and in fact everything we want or do not want.

On confronting Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, we are faced with these facts:

1. The danger of emigration threatens not only the occupied territory, but the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and, just as equally, Palestinians in Galilee, the triangle, and the Negev.

2. The Soviet Union will not stop this emigration, whatever pressure is brought to bear upon it. This is because it has included the Soviet citizens' freedom of travel in its list of human rights. We cannot ask the Soviet Union to change its domestic policy and return to Stalinism.

3. So, the only alternative is to consider other methods to make Soviet Jewish emigrants go anywhere but Israel. There are two possibilities:

a. We can make immigration to Israel a risky adventure by carrying out bloodthirsty operations inside Israeli settlements, such as those carried out against U.S. Marines and French and Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. Those operations, which foiled Israeli-NATO plans to internationalize the Lebanese crisis, were a success by any standard. They only need a spirit of martyrdom and a boobytrapped truck, which are available.

b. We can interfere with the emigration process by making Jewish emigrants go straight from Bucharest or Budapest to the United States, Canada, or Australia by pressuring these countries to admit them, just as they agreed under Israeli pressure to admit thousands of Palestinian emigrants, especially those from Jerusalem.

4. We should consider the possibility of creating tension in the region by ending the "deception" or "self-deception" known as the peace process and by ignoring the United States' plans and lies. But what is most important is to stop this Arab begging of world nations to solve the Middle East problem. This humiliating begging has been going on for half a century now, without results. Besides, why should we follow the Egyptian singer's example who says: "O, how I wish someone would bring my love to me." Well, if you cannot bring your own love, then you certainly do not deserve her. Had Palestine been our real love, we would not have asked any world power to bring her. That power would keep Palestine for itself, because it is a most beautiful country!

PFLP Group Clashes With Militia in South 27 Feb

NC2702110990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] A group from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and a position of the militia loyal to the occupation forces had a confrontation in Zummarayya area. Citing security sources in Rashayya area, REUTER said that a fedayeen group attacked a militia position in Zummarayya with 107-mm Katyusha's at 0500 today. It added that 1 ½ hours later, armored cars and other vehicles supported a militia force which advanced two kilometers outside the occupied area and clashed with the group.

The PFLP declared that four militiamen were killed or wounded, and a militia vehicle was damaged in the confrontations. The occupation forces closed the Zummarayya crossing point while helicopters flew over the area.

'Awn Forces Reportedly Bombard LF Positions

NC2602174190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The situation grew tense this afternoon when members of the 'Awn units fired three rockets at the Galerie al-Ittihad area in Sadd al-Bawshariyah. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces' [LF] positions in al-Qulay'at were subjected to concentrated bombardment originating from 'Awn's artillery emplacements in Rumiyah at 1630.

Sniper and rocket fire was directed at LF positions on the periphery of al-Sayyidah church in Sinn al-Fil. The 'Awn units fired flat-trajectory rounds at residential areas in Sinn al-Fil.

Palestinian Delegation Meets 'Awn, Ja'ja', Sfayr

NC2402205090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] In a statement to AFP in Sidon today, Mu'in Shubaytah, general representative of the Fatah Movement in Lebanon, said that Palestinian mediation to end the fighting in the eastern area is continuing in a positive atmosphere. So far the Palestinian delegation has presented the two sides with a plan pertaining to the political and information aspects of the solution. He said that many points in this plan are acceptable to both sides, but there are points which are unacceptable because the sides do not trust each other.

The Palestinian representative noted that a new Palestinian delegation may arrive within 72 hours to join the present three-member delegation. It should be noted that so far the Palestinian delegation currently visiting the eastern area has met with former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja', and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr.

Lebanese Forces Chief Calls for Disengagement

NC2602181490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Major General Fu'ad Malik, chief of staff of the Lebanese Forces, has stated that priority should be given to implementing a plan to disengage those waging war all along the confrontation lines. This is for the safety of the civilians, who should not remain at the mercy of one fighter here or there.

Maj. Gen. Malik said that the current no war, no peace situation has exhausted the citizens' nerves, resources, and savings. On our part, we do not want this situation to continue. Therefore, we have proposed several positive points to open the roads and normalize the situation.

Maj. Gen. Malik stressed that since it is being emphasized every day that the Army will not launch any new attacks, it is necessary to disenage forces so that normal life may resume.

LF Commander Malik Comments on 'Awn's 'Mistake'

NC2502190490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik has revealed that 30 percent of the Army soldiers objected to fighting from the beginning. Some of them have surrendered, some joined Colonel Paul Faris, and some are still in their units and did not have the chance to avoid the battle. He added that 55 percent are fighting because they are soldiers and are following orders, but they have no real motivation.

The remainder are mobilized and misled. Some of these were taken prisoner. It became clear to them, through the very good treatment they received, that General 'Awn has established for them a wall of enmity since he assumed the army command, and that when they met with Lebanese Forces fighters this wall was removed. They saw clearly that the Lebanese Forces fighter is no different from them in organization, patriotism, goals, and ideology.

In an interview with AL-MASIRAH magazine, Maj. Gen. Malik affirmed that Gen. 'Awn made a mistake as a commander by directing the army to open fire at the Lebanese Forces. He explained that unification of the military effort means coordination of the effort against the occupier and not the Lebanese Forces' integration into the army, because this means elimination of the resistance. Maj. Gen. Malik noted that if Gen. 'Awn wanted military and political integration with the Lebanese Forces, he should have reached a rapprochement between the army and the Lebanese Forces and not caused a clash between them. Malik said: We want to get involved in the dynamics of a peaceful solution.

Maj. Gen. Malik recalled that the Lebanese Forces existed in the northern free areas before the army, and all the northern fronts are its responsibility, apart from the

al-Madfun crossing to which Gen. 'Awn had dispatched a complete brigade. Malik asked: What was the 8th Brigade doing in Jubayl? He revealed that the Lebanese Forces attacked the army positions in Jubayl, Kasrawan, and Adma with about half as many units, equipment, and men as the army has.

Maj. Gen. Malik revealed a NATO study admiring the combat capability of the Lebanese Forces and its sophisticated use of weapons, thus indicating a very high standard of training. He affirmed that the Lebanese Forces fighters displayed very good ability and fitness.

'Awn Replaces Operations Room Personnel

NC2402192890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] It has been learned that several officers working in the operations room under Michel 'Awn's command have lost their enthusiasm to continue fighting. In response, 'Awn held an extraordinary meeting with his assistants 'Amr Shihab and Fu'ad al-Ashqar and decided to replace most of the officers serving in the operations room. Then 'Awn moved to the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah where he dismissed the reluctant officers and replaced them with other supporters. He appointed First Lieutenant Fadi al-Khawajah fire coordinator. 'Awn himself assumed command of the operations room.

Al-Huss Comments on Events in Eastern Area

NC2602120690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stated that Lebanon's tragedy, represented by what is happening in the eastern area, will end only when the people and their leaders raise their voices to repudiate the two warring forces and rally around the only legitimate authority.

Dr. al-Huss said: This does not mean that any party is called upon to abandon an adopted plan, stand, or viewpoint. It means that everybody is called upon to abandon the method of armed struggle and to pursue the option of political struggle.

In a statement he made today, Prime Minister al-Huss welcomed every effort made to halt the bloodbath in the eastern area. He said that a cease-fire has become an urgent popular and national demand.

The prime minister asked: How can the situation be normalized by reconciling two illegitimate bodies? Will the situation become normal by dividing the land into zones of influence? Will normalization be attained by consolidating newly created confrontation lines in the [eastern] area and by being satisfied with calming these lines even for a while?

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We hear calls to unite the rifles. Do they want the citizens to believe that peace can be attained by uniting the rifles of two illegitimate and unlawful parties? He said: Let the warring parties explain their peace plan to the people. Let them also explain how peace cannot be established in the eastern area or in any part of Lebanon unless all the rifles, except those of the legitimate authority, are laid down.

The prime minister noted that peace in one country is indivisible and cannot be established so long as one of its areas is taken, and so long as the attacker is determined to fight the legitimate authority within that area.

Junblatt on East Beirut, Syrian Intervention

NC2402144290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has stressed that what is said about partition is incorrect and that all sectarian formulas in Lebanon will eventually collapse. He said that the war of liberation that 'Awn declared will liberate Lebanon from the Christians and that if Ja'ja's federalism proposal succeeds, it will lead to federalism between Juniyah and al-Ashrafiyah. He emphasized that if Syria intervenes, there should be a certain international cover. He said that the intervention concerning us should be a limited operation to remove the disease. He pointed out that it seems there are certain objections to such an operation. In a statement to the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH, he wondered what is required—a tribal Lebanon, or a homeland and state.

Information Minister Views 26 Feb Cabinet Session

NC2602170490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq at the end of cabinet's session on 26 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] Today His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a cabinet session attended by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers. At the beginning of the session, President al-Hirawi said that the main topic on the agenda revolves around the tragedy in the eastern area as a result of the acts of violence which had killed hundreds, injured thousands, devastated the infrastructure, and displaced our kinfolk there. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi briefed the cabinet members on the two messages he received from U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand expressing their sympathy with the Lebanese people's ordeal and reiterating their support for the legitimate authority and the national accord document. [passage omitted]

The cabinet discussed the general security and political situation and adopted decisions on ways to implement the security plan, resolve the situation in the eastern area, and meet the urgent needs of the citizens. The cabinet also discussed the issue of all evacuees and ways to enable them to return to their areas and provide them

with the necessary assistance and guarantees to ensure their return. [passage omitted]

The cabinet strongly condemned the acts of violence, malice, and barbarism against the citizens, public institutions, and private property as well as the acts of premeditated sabotage of the infrastructure. These acts demonstrate a lack of sense of duty and involvement in plotting against the unity of the homeland and state, against the public interest, the citizen's life, safety, dignity, and human rights.

The cabinet will treat as top priority the means to consolidate security, provide factors of stability, and utilize the state's resources to help the citizens. The cabinet will spare no efforts to confront all dangers and challenges no matter how big they are.

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Raiding Houses

NC2502143890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Excerpt] A responsible Amal Movement source has stated the following: It seems that the Mohtashemi groups [Hizballah] are not content with their crimes against the homeland, Shiite sect, and Islam. After burning and demolishing citizens' houses in al-Awza'i and after their destructive bombardment of the villages and areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah, these rancorous groups have been raiding houses and arresting our defenseless kinfolk in Hayy al-Sullum and al-Karamah since this morning. The grudge-bearers are cursing citizens, looting their houses, and molesting women, children, and the elderly. [passage omitted]

Amal Accuses 'Mohtashemi Groups' of Opening Fire

NC2302180590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] An Amal Movement information source has released the following statement: At 1410 today, the movement and the citizens in al-Shiyah were taken by surprise by concentrated gunfire from the Mohtashemi groups in Lebanon [Hizballah]. A citizen was injured and tension was high for 30 minutes. Intensive contacts held under the auspices of the Syrian brothers resulted in the return of the situation to normal.

In another development, resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge when a patrol consisting of Israeli troops and agent Lahd militiamen was crossing the main square in Marj 'Uyun this morning. The blast put a vehicle out of commission and injured two members of the patrol. A number of shops were damaged in the explosion. Shortly afterward, Israeli forces imposed a curfew on the area and its environs and mounted a search campaign.

Hizballah Statement Denounces Israeli 'Aggression'

NC2402073090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible Hizballah official has issued a statement denouncing the Zionist aggression against a position belonging to the Islamic Group in Sidon. The statement says: The Zionists have carried out a new aggression against the Muslim positions and regions in our struggling south as part of their continuing war against our Muslim nation and our proud struggling people. This time the target of their attacks was a position belonging to our brothers in the Islamic Group in Sidon.

The statement adds: We condemn this criminal act, express solidarity with our brothers who were the target of this oppressive attack, and bless their steadfastness. We call upon all parties who are resisting the enemy in the Muslim and nationalist arena to see these attacks as an opportunity for discerning the implications of the Zionist threat and its schemes against the region and closing ranks before the occupying Zionists.

We assert that only the resistance, particularly the Islamic resistance, is capable of deterring the aggression and foiling the Zionist scheme in our struggling south.

The statement concluded: We appeal to all Muslim and nationalist powers to work to consolidate the resistance, aim their rifles at the Zionist enemy, make concerted efforts to stop the war against the Islamic resistance, open the roads to the Muslim mujahidin, and open all fronts with the enemy.

Italian Embassy Continues To Operate in E. Beirut

NC2402101390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Responding to media reports about the closure of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon and the evacuation of all of its employees and nationals, the charge d'affaires at the Italian Embassy in Lebanon stated this morning that despite its location in an area where tension prevails, the embassy is continuing to operate as best it can. The charge d'affaires indicated that some Italian families have been evacuated to more secure areas, adding that the Italian Embassy in Lebanon has temporarily suspended issuing entry visas in view of the current security situation.

Pakistan's Nusrat Bhutto Meets With Al-Asad

JN2302215090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, Pakistan's People's Party leader and first Pakistani minister in Ms. Benazir Bhutto's government. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Pakistan's ambassador in Damascus, Azmat Hassan.

Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto conveyed to the president the greetings of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and an invitation to the president to visit Pakistan. The president accepted the greetings and asked Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto to convey his greetings to the Pakistani president, the prime minister, and the friendly Pakistani people. The president also accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan and promised to pay the visit at the appropriate time.

The talks centered on relations between Syria and Pakistan and the situation in the Middle East and South Asia.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2602152290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party leader and first minister in Mrs. Benazir Bhutto's Government, left Damascus this morning, after a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

In a pre-departure statement, Mrs. Bhutto said her visit to Damascus was very successful and useful. She noted that the Syrian and Pakistani peoples as well as the two countries and parties are linked by close relations. Mrs. Bhutto praised the accomplishments realized in Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Action' To End East Beirut 'Destruction' Urged

JN2502084890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its comment today, AL-BA'TH asserts that the killing, destruction, and devastation in East Beirut are part of the implementation of an old and new plan; that is, partition, which 'Awn has sought and is still seeking. What Ja'ja' has done, in contrast, is compatible with 'Awn's actions, for Ja'ja' has played a certain role in 'Awn's usurpation of power. He also contributed directly to all the plots which were hatched and implemented to prevent the legitimate government from spreading its authority on all the Lebanese lands.

Al-BA'TH wonders: As to the cause of this devastating fighting which has been going on for three weeks between the factions of the rebel officer and the militias of Ja'ja', it was only for personal advantage and served only the enemies of Lebanon. The proof of this is the refusal of the two sides to recognize the legitimate authority, which emerged through unanimity.

Thus, the disagreement between 'Awn and Ja'ja' is confined to the desire of each one of them to impose his hegemony on East Beirut, prior to taking practical measures which will pose a grave future threat not only to Lebanon, but also to the entire Arab homeland.

Proceeding from the above, pan-Arab needs entail an effective Arab action to deter future threats. This can be done through a review of the present state of rebellion in East Beirut, which ultimately represents a Zionist case. In our view, directly uprooting this phenomenon, especially under the current regional and international circumstances, means the beginning of the downfall of the Israeli leaders' scheme which wants to establish Greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates.

TISHRIN also tackled the same issue in one of its comments asserting that the Lebanese legitimacy—represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi—alone can thwart the dangerous result of this war, establish security for the Lebanese, and save them from harm.

TISHRIN made it clear that the al-Ta'if agreement—and its results of accord and legitimacy—should always be the primary fulcrum for any solution. The interests of Lebanon and its legitimate government now demand action in order to tighten the noose around the partitionmongers in East Beirut, liberate its people from their domination, and impose legitimate authority over all Lebanese territory. Only in this way can Lebanon be protected, its national unity achieved, and the will of its people materialized.

In conclusion, TISHRIN asserts that the legitimate Lebanese Government, which has not and will not be a bystander toward the 'Awn-Ja'ja' war, can in the end impose its authority. The legitimate Lebanese Government is doing all it can to deter the partitionists and build a united and stable Lebanon.

Dismissal of 30 Government Employees Reported

JN2602172590 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Feb pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Damascus (SANA)—On the basis of reports by the Central Commission for Supervision and Inspection, the competent authorities have issued new decisions dismissing from service a number of government employees for reasons related to dishonesty and misconduct. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Operations, Battles Continue Around Khowst, Kabul

Resistance Intensifies Operations

BK2602125290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1216 GMT 26 Feb 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 26 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance has tightened its noose around Khowst and intensified operations in the north as moderate mujahidin leaders step up efforts to organize elections in their one-year-old government-in-exile.

Two Sunni Muslim leaders, Burhanuddin Rabbani and Ahmad Gaylani, were in Tehran to seek support from pro-Iranian Shiites for elections to enlarge the base of the provisional government exiled in Pakistan.

The proposed elections are supported by the United States but strongly opposed by fundamentalist Sunni leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, who has accused resistance moderates of supporting a "American-Soviet conspiracy" aimed at bringing back to power Afghanistan's former king, Mohammad Zahir Shah. Mr. Hekmatyar has said the polls would be "rigged" and erode the legitimacy of the interim government.

On the ground, several thousand rebel fighters have taken positions around the southeastern garrison town of Khowst. On the heights of Towr Ghar to the south of the town, they are threatening the airport that provides the only link to the outside for defending government forces.

The commander directing the mujahidin operations, Jalaluddin Haqqani, called over the weekend for the surrender of soldiers and militiamen in Khowst, offering defectors "the same salary" as they get from the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

Western analysts said that if the resistance was able to keep its positions on Towr Ghar, it would have a "significant advantage" and could choke Khowst's defenders by blocking daily resupply flights.

Khowst, 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the Pakistani border, is a bastion of the Najibullah government due to strong support there from military and political cadres, according to Naim Majrooh, director of the resistance Afghan Information Center in the Pakistan border town of Peshawar. The resistance has said operations in the area are the biggest since their failed offensive on Jalalabad after the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989.

In the north, forces commanded by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said Monday they had intensified action in the provinces of Takhar, Balkh, Samangan and Faryab, which abuts the Soviet Union. A spokesman for the Northern Council headed by Mr. Mas'ud said that on Feburary 20, 40 soldiers, including the Takhar governor, General Elias Uddin, were killed in an attack on a Soviet arms convoy in Khojegar District. Ten Soviet-made T-55 tanks and "a number" of other vehicles were destroyed in the attack, the spokesman said.

Massive deliveries of Soviet arms, valued at eight million dollars a day by U.S. intelligence, have helped Kabul maintain virtually all of its military positions since the Soviet withdrawal a year ago.

President Najibullah has also benefitted from increased in-fighting among the resistance factions.

Takhar Governor Reported Killed

BK2602133390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have reportedly shot down two helicopter gunships and captured their two pilots in Qandahar.

One report said the governor of Takhar Province was killed in an offensive launched by the mujahidin against the Kabul regime forces along Konduz-(Khvajeh Pir) road. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] report, several strategic positions of Kabul regime have fallen in the beleaguered city of Khowst and the security belt of the city squeezed as a result of heavy onslaughts of mujahidin.

Reports of mujahidin's attacks on Kabul troops in Faryab, Samangan, and Balkh Provinces have also come in. Some 25 Kabul soldiers have been killed and more than 30 injured in these attacks. In Balkh city, mujahidin destroyed two security posts. They also set on fire one tank and two armored vehicles in Samangan.

Operations Crush 'Extremists'

LD2702090690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Units of the Armed Forces based in Khowst District are engaged in fortifying the previous position to neutralize and repulse possible attacks by the joint forces of the enemy. Loss of life has been inflicted on the extremist warmongers by the crushing strikes of the Armed Forces units. An authoritative source of the Armed Forces told the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section that over the past (?two days) the enemy fired with heavy weapons on the residential areas of Khowst, on the town of Khowst, on Towr Ghar mountain, on the area southeast of the airport, and on Tani District. The enemy who consist of extremists, Pakistani troops and Saudi mercenaries launched offensives from various directions which were repulsed and neutralized by frontline operations and artillery fire. In retaliation, the units fired on the enemy batteries, as a result of which 45 enemy were ousted from the frontline. Three missiles, two mortars, five machineguns, and two rocket launchers were destroyed. Two

members of the Armed Forces and one civilian were martyred and five others were wounded by enemy fire.

According to another report, as a result of a search and mopping-up operation in Mohammad Agha District in Lowgar, 60 rounds of recoilless gun ammunition and some mortar shells and rockets of the enemy have been seized and two sets of reactif [missiles] have been destroyed.

The Kabul-Gardez highway is open to traffic.

The BIA military section reports that despite suffering losses, the enemy fired intermittently with heavy weapons on residential areas, at Kan-o Katraghai, Sorkh Dewal, Sorkh Rud, and Gamberi Dag, where they were shelled in retaliation by heavy weapons of units of the Armed Forces. As a result of artillery and rocket fire by the Armed Forces units, 32 enemy were ousted from the combat line. Similarly, 42 motor vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, two sets of RM-1, five recoilless guns, and three mortars were destroyed. One member of the [word indistinct] unit was injured.

According to another report, five civilians were martyred and others injured by Pakistani-backed extremists' heavy weapons. Fourteen enemy were ousted from the battle line by retaliatory fire by our Armed Forces. Four enemy rocket launchers, two mortars, two guns, and four machineguns were destroyed.

Rocket Attacks on Kabul Kill 10

LD2702091190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0414 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 25, (BAKHTAR)—The Pakistani-backed extremists in the past 10 days have fired seven times 32 surface-to-surface rockets on residential areas in Kabul city and around it as a result of which 10 persons were killed and 34 others injured, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

The rockets launched by the extremists were of cluster and American Sakr which have hit precincts 2, 4, 6, 9, and around Kabul City.

The said rockets were fired on the order of Mawlawi Sidiqullah, ringleader of Mohammadi group, Ajab Gul, ringleader of Mojaddedi group, Khan Mohammad, ringleader of Gaylani group from the regions of Angordara, Land Kheyl and Safi mountain and under the instruction of 'Abdul Hamid, ringleader of Sayaf Wahhabi from Paghman District on residential areas and crowded parts of Kabul city. Two houses were also partially damaged and losses incurred to our countrymen from those rocket attacks.

Draft of National Front Platform Published

LD2402202590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] The draft of the new platform of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, approved recently by the executive delegation of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, restoration of peace and national unity, and Afghan reconstruction and progress, was published in the 54th addition of the front's NATIONAL GAZETTE—the publication organ of the Afghan National Front—dated Tuesday 20 February in order to present views and any future amendments or additions.

The platform consists of a short preface about the past and present status of the Front in view of the fundamental outlines that have been compiled in political areas, as well as in socioeconomic, national, and international relations. The Central Council of the Afghan National Front and the Front's call on all parties, political organizations, socioeconomic personalities, and other learned figures who are interested in the future of the country and in the National Front to express their views in the Front's national weekly to make additions or amendments, after obtaining the 54th issue of the Front's NATIONAL GAZETTE and after careful study of the draft of the Afghan National Front platform.

In addition to extended use of the people's views, as well as parties and political organizations views for additions to the platform draft, the National Front Central Council will publish their honest views in the NATIONAL GAZETTE.

India

Official Spokesman on Current Indo-Pakistan Issues

BK2602162990 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1533 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Official Spokesman's Statement" on 23 February]

[Text] We have seen the Pakistan prime minister's statement of February 21st where she indicates that Pakistan is prepared for a dialogue to resolve the question of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the Simla agreement.

India has always believed that all differences between our two countries can and should be settled peacefully through bilateral discussions in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. Pakistan has, unfortunately, been showing diminishing commitment to this while stepping up support to terrorism and intervention in our internal affairs.

Regrettably, we also continue to hear different voices from Pakistan. We have noticed Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's statement in which he has said that Pakistan is keeping "all options open". We have also seen a call and a "warning" from the so-called president of the POK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir] People's Party, Sardar Ibrahim, to raise a one-lakh-strong commando force to launch an armed attack on Kashmir.

A dialogue would be purposeful and helpful only if Pakistan desists from such blatant interference and also

refrains from vitiating the atmosphere. It is, therefore, imperative that a proper climate be created in which meaningful discussions can be held. For our part, we remain committed to restoring our dialogue with Pakistan so that we can build a friendly and cooperative relationship with this important neighbour. We are aware that the people of Pakistan, as much as the people of India, desire peace. We wish to assure the people of Pakistan that we have nothing but the friendliest of feelings towards them.

In reply to a question about the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan by France, the spokesman said that we have seen reports to the effect that France has cleared the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan. Anything which has the effect of strengthening or expanding the weapons orientation and clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme, is a matter of concern to us. Our concern with regard to the sale of the French power plant has been brought to the attention of France.

Question: India got one nuclear power plant, and is acquiring two more. Should Pakistan be concerned about it?

Spokesman: Our programme is not weapons-oriented and not clandestine.

Committee Meeting Reviews Kashmir Situation

BK2602161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] The situation in the Kashmir Valley came up for a high-level review when the union cabinet [committee] on political affairs met in New Delhi last night. The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, who was also present at the meeting, apprised the committee of the situation in the valley. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, was also present. The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, and Mr. Jag Mohan also had a meeting with the prime minister in New Delhi this afternoon to discuss the situation in the valley.

Meanwhile, there have been four blasts in Srinagar since last evening without any casualties. There was no curfew in the entire Kashmir Valley today. Shops, banks, and offices were open. Vehicles are plying normally.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2302161790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1146 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the second sermon, I will refer briefly to two or three issues. Although the marches of 11 February have gone now, I think it unfair not to praise and thank, on my part, various strata of people for their glorious action.

To be fair, those marches were very magnificent and effective. For us too—except for those who oppose us, those who are our enemies—the marches brought confidence and comfort. Thank God, our people, young and old, men and women, small and great, all types are standing like a mountain, a great mountain, to support their dear revolution. [crowd chants "God is the greatest," "Death to America," "Death to Israel and the Mojahedin"] God willing, all who participated will be rewarded.

You saw everything and heard everything. Everything was good about those marches. In quantity and quality, they were good. They were also exciting. The living slogans chanted from the bottom of people's hearts were also good. Everything about them was good. The slogans about the great rank of the leadership, the slogans about the system, about the enemies of the revolution, about our late leader, the great imam, all were good. I only mention that those marches made all friends of the revolution and the system happy, and disheartened, in my opinion, all opposition and enemies. If they have not become disheartened, then it proves that they are very thick-skinned. I do not know. So much for that.

But about the importance of the Salman Rushdie affair. The movement of the world Muslims was good. But it should be followed up. Here, in the Salman Rushdie affair we have two issues: One is that Salman Rushdie is an apostate according to Islam and in the view of all Muslim tribes; that is, you cannot find one tribe among the Muslim tribes to declare that Salman Rushdie is not an apostate. Whether from a general sect, a particular sect, Shiite, Sunni, or those believing in six imams, you cannot find one single person who says that Rushdie is not an apostate. That is one issue.

The edict on the apostate is execution and death, according to the majority of Muslim 'ulema. There is no one who says an apostate should be crowned with flowers. Such a person does not exist. All Muslims say the same. That is the second point.

He is an apostate. The edict on an apostate is death. The person who issued the edict—it is possible someone, somewhere says that the gentleman who issued the edict was not in a position to... [changes thought] From the viewpoint of science, and piety, he held the highest position in Islamic society. [crowd chants support]

Pay attention please! Pay attention! Let me please talk, brothers! And so, the execution of Salman Rushdie, as an apostate, is not and can not be anybody's business; it is irrevocable, and anyone's opposition to, or revocation of, that decree would be considered an Islamic taboo [haram]. That is not possible. Tomorrow, a certain country may accuse us of revoking it; that decree is irrevocable. Even the immaculate imam—when such a point was reached—who had the religious authority vested in him, said that he could not revoke it. [passage omitted] If a decree is proved by clear evidence, then the majority of the religious authorities—that is, the very

major religious authorities—unanimously agree upon that. Therefore, that decree is neither revocable, nor equivocal, nor alterable. That decree is a punitive measure, a punishment for an apostate, and cannot be delayed even one hour. If a Muslim has the opportunity to implement that decree but delays it by one hour, that would be considered taboo. He should go and kill him there and then. Salman Rushdie should not wait in hopes that they will find someone tomorrow who may revoke the decree. No one has the authority to revoke that decree. [crowd chants support] And that is one of the certainties of the religious jurisprudence on which there is no doubt.

However, there is another issue. The Salman Rushdie issue is not the only issue which concerns us, because, inevitably, one day a brave young man will appear who will not allow that divine obligation to be set aside. The other issue involves those who have taken shelter behind Salman Rushdie; those who want to make a mockery of our Prophet today, our imams tomorrow, and our Koran the day after, and then everything else we have. They want to make a laughing stock of us. But, their way was blocked, thanks to the blessed existence of our imam. It takes a mad person to say: Yes, I will say something, earn some money, and live in hiding until I die. Yes! Unless someone like that exists. I do not know. The issue concerns America; the issue concerns England, it is about attempts to deliver blows at the revolution, it is about striking at our religion. So much for the issue of Salman Rushdie. And now, the important point which I had intended to mention in the course of my second sermon: It concerns the very issue which I discussed in my first sermon three weeks ago; that is, the collapse of the world's socialist camp, the collapse of that great palace, one of the two poles of the civilized world, the communist camp.

Seventy years later, a religion which the Prophet introduced 1,400 years ago still bears fruit, blossoms, progresses, and has a message.

Those who laid the foundations of Marxism and Leninism promised: Paradise is coming; the day will come when there will no longer be geographic borders; everybody will be equal, and so on. They said: Put the Koran and the mosque aside; they are the opiate of the people; they are the root of your troubles; and then see what happens. [passage omitted]

They said that communism has reached the end of the line, that their economy has failed, and so on. I am not convinced; I do not know if you are. What I see is that a hand reached out and struck, and a fortress crumbled. But, whatever has happened, brothers and sisters, we cannot remain indifferent to such a great issue, which has occurred on our doorstep, just beyond the borders, and which concerns people of the same religion as ourselves.

I have learned that the wolves have sharpened their claws, global economic centers have drawn up certain plans, the West is hopeful of depolarizing the world. Others, even those Wahhabis—those Wahhabis—all came aboard planes bearing copies of the Koran, so that they could possibly turn it into a base. [sentence as heard] This is not hearsay, I have seen this with my own eyes.

We cannot, the Islamic Republic system cannot remain indifferent to the fate of those who have the same religion as us. I am not saying all of them, but among them there are many people who have wholeheartedly and unconditionally accepted Islam, the Koran, the religion, Iran, and all the aspects of the Islamic Republic's system, its leadership, president, and laws.

They have asked us for help, saying: Give us the Koran, the prayer book [mafatih], teachers, and Friday imams. Teach us to pray, teach us Islamic tenets. We are Muslims. We are like children separated from their mothers. Help us.

They are constantly writing and telephoning us, coming over to us and asking. It is up to us, our duty to help them without politically interfering in the internal affairs of another country, within the above-mentioned framework, as Muslims. Our Constitution tells us that we cannot remain indifferent to the fate of any Islamic movement evolving in the world.

Now they have stretched their hands to us for help; we are thinking about it and those who have resources must be thinking about it. The honorable authorities of our country are definitely thinking about it. Regarding that issue we must all perform our religious duty and our religious responsibility. Nations have been freed; obstacles have been removed. Now mosques are being built there [Soviet Azerbaijan]. They are chanting the Muslim call to prayers [azan]; they are reciting the Koran, but they do not know the ordinary answers to day to day religious queries. They are in need of everything in relation to religious education. We must feel responsible, with all our being.

My second sermon is about to finish. That week—three weeks ago—at the end of my sermons, on my own initiative and without anyone's asking me to do so, I paid my respects to their martyrs in two or three sentences in the Azeri language—I offered my condolences and congratulations.

However, this time I have been asked to speak in Azeri. Many letters have been written to me. They have asked all the responsible authorities as well as those who do not hold responsible positions and also those who make speeches, including myself, that if I held the prayers would I please say two or three sentences in our language [Azeri]. They have asked me because I can speak the language and they feel that it boosts their morale. I feel it is my duty to do so. With your permission, rather than giving an Arabic sermon, I would like to speak in Azeri to them for two or three sentences. [crowd chants support]

[Following, in Azeri] Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, and all of you people living in the Caucasus and nearby regions, all of you who are Muslims, who are Shiites. From this platform, the platform of the Friday prayers, I salute all of you—you who are looking for Islam, for the Koran, and seek news about the Islamic regime. On behalf of all Iranians, whether the elders or the youth, on behalf of its great leader and its glorious government—here among us there are no divisions, there is no distinction among us. We are all like brothers and sisters among ourselves. On behalf of all of us I salute you. Our life belongs to Islam, the Koran and the revolution. We have heard that they [non-Muslims] have come to your men and women intent on misleading them. It must not be so, lest you push aside one thing only to land in another difficulty. Your refrain must be "Long live Islam, long live the Koran, long live the Islamic revolution," and "Death to those who are enemies of Islam." God willing, God will bless all of you martyrs who lost their lives for religion. And we will seek God's blessing for them. We await the day when you have returned to the fold of Islam again.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Presents Budget to Majles

LD2302164690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1645 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presenting the budget bill to the Majles on 20 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God, the Lord of the world. Greetings upon the Prophet of God and all his kin. Thanks to God, the budget has provided us an excuse to come meet our friends and esteemed colleagues. I hope there will be more such excuses, so I can have the opportunity of renewing our meetings.

For the first time in the Islamic Republic, the government is presenting the budget to the Majles based on a long-term plan. This success has been achieved through great efforts made in the past by the Majles, the government, the Council of Guardians, and the former and present governments; and thanks to God, today we have the First Five-Year Plan in our revolutionary system.

Our negative point is that at a time when we are starting our first plan, we are doing this in the absence of his eminence the imam of the ummah and the founder of the Islamic Republic. He was very interested in this matter, and you remember that these days, when the policies of the plan were being discussed, he entrusted the Supreme Council for Reconstruction with drawing up the policies and, thanks be to God, he also confirmed them. This is a source of strength for our work: That in the absence of his eminence the imam of the ummah, we have his confirmation of the policies. The second point of strength is that the policies were codified under the initiative of our esteemed leader, who in those days was the chairman of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction and was given this mission by his eminence the imam. The work was carried out at his initiative. This also is one of the distinct points of the plan, that both the former and the existing leader were involved directly in the policies of the plan.

Of course, we should not imagine this plan—which we have drawn up, and on the basis of which, we have presented our budget this year—is free from any defect or fault. In the first instance, it is our first plan, and we are novices in this matter. Second, no plan can be free from fault. The budget we have presented is based on that plan. We have made every effort to draw up the budget within the context of the plan, to make no changes or make very minor changes if this was necessary. We expect the honorable deputies also will base their efforts on ensuring this budget is in accordance with the plan. If we make it our intention that all of us—the Majles, the government, and others—become the guardians for implementation of the plan, we will be able to have a proper system in our country; of course, we also have a free hand. If we discover a mistake, it always can be corrected. The plan is an ordinary plan and may be corrected. It should be our common principle, however, that, God willing, all of us will try to completely implement the plan.

In the government we have made the provision that, in addition to the Plan and Budget Organization, which has the responsibility for implementation of the plan, another group may be formed to assist me and the Plan and Budget Organization for evaluating and supervising the implementation of various stages of the plan. The honorable deputies also can help us a great deal, because in their constituencies, as well as in the reports they receive, in some cases they may be informed even ahead of us whether the plan is being implemented and whether the budget is progressing based on the plan or not. We shall try to implement that. In the debates concerning this year's budget, we also hope the same line is followed, and that we will be able to achieve results.

Before referring to some detailed points in the plan, in the budget, which I have written down and which I will read, giving you facts and figures, I think it is appropriate to pay attention to a few points regarding the budget and the plan. From a domestic point of view, we have a suitable occasion for the implementation of the plan. Nearly all those in charge believe in this plan, and they appreciate this defect in their lives. The work places always have complained about the lack of a plan, and now they are hopeful. The work forces feel that in the country we are in need of greater work and greater activity, so the problems which have been left to us due to the war conditions, the revolution and the former age, may be put right. In other words, the intelligentsia of the country at the moment favors serious efforts at implementing the plan. The discussions conducted around the plan have paved the way for a psychological frame of mind; that this plan be regarded as a positive step and an unavoidable necessity in our society.

Regarding the stability of the system, the gentlemen know the situation. It is an appropriate situation.

Although we have not left the war behind us [as heard], nevertheless, it is very different from the conditions when we were engaged in war. With very, very strong probability, we feel our enemies no longer will pursue the path of waging war, because their past experience in no way has been in their favor. The country still is under the shadow of war, however, and this, too, has left its effect on the plan and the budget, and we will make a reference to it. In other words, although we are not in a state of war, nevertheless, in our defense sector, the government has paid a great deal of attention to it, and the Majles also has added to it. The general view was we should pay attention to our defense, and this is due to the condition of no war, no peace; but in any case, it is very different from the past. The budgets presented to the Majles in the past were completely under the influence of the war, but now this is not the case. It only is partly influenced by war issues. Fortunately, in the facts and figures you shall see the priority of war has now given way to education in this plan. At the moment, the first priority in the plan has been given to culture, education at different stages, higher education, school education, and technical education. This is a positive stage we should have arrived at, and this also shows the direction of our work. In any case, as the result of the current situation, our plan is somewhat different from ordinary plans, which could have been envisaged if the present no war, no peace situation did not exist.

Regarding external conditions, the situation is somewhat different. In my view, our enemies of different types—whether domestic or foreign, those who do not wish to see Islam successful and those who wish to say the age of the sovereignty of religion, especially of Islam, has passed—they certainly would not like to see this plan succeed. We should not imagine for a moment our enemies—even those who make remarks, such as if Iran engages in reconstruction and gets busy with her own affairs, she will refrain from adventurism in the world and will from spreading the message of her revolution—even those people are not sincere; they are lying. They certainly would not like to see the Islamic Republic with the characteristics it possesses to be successful in implementing its plan. We should not expect any kind of assistance or cooperation in its true sense from abroad. When I say from abroad, I am referring to our enemies. There may be some friends who may be prepared to cooperate with us, or there may be those who do not think like this and are impartial; who are neither friends nor enemies. Those who are confronting us, have confronted us from the beginning, and still confront us—most of whom are of arrogant countries—far from cooperating with us, they will try to create obstacles any way they can.

The point which has not been made before, and which I wish to refer to now, is that in this plan, every effort has been made to ensure everything in our Five-Year Plan which should be implemented, and everything which concerns the terms and goals of this plan during its period is in any way dependent upon capabilities outside our own grasp. There are certain cases in the Five-Year Plan where we should make use of foreign capabilities. Those are things, however, whose results should be realized later on, and we will not see their outcome in this plan. For instance, the dams which are in the plan and those marine matters which we mainly have delegated to the Oil Ministry regarding gas, petrochemicals and so on; everyone of those which may be started in the course of this plan only will impose a burden on the present government in the form of occupying some of our resources. In other words, we should devote some of our capabilities to their implementation, but we only will see their results in future plans, in future years. At this stage, therefore, everything that concerns our lives and the implementation of the contents of the plan has been drawn up in such a way that fortunately, we are dependent upon ourselves, we stand on our own feet, and we can both provide the resources, as well as implementing them; of course, I am talking in general terms; there may be minor cases which may be different from the general rule.

As far as the international situation is concerned, as you gentlemen can see, the world is moving toward a single bloc. As a result, a great deal of the opportunity which existed in the world for independent countries to take advantage of the competition between the powers is being lost. Hostility between the powers is to some extent being changed into a kind of understanding, which mainly is in the direction of giving a free hand to those who are hostile toward us and who are bent on animosity against us, rather than being our friends. Of course, there also are some positive points in this situation which should not be ignored, and we should not make a one-sided judgment about this issue. All this freedom, the liberation of nations, the movement of waves, the breaking of the oppressive myths in the world, the influence of all these on the nations of the world is so powerful, profound, and strong, it also will have positive results for nations like us who wish to be independent; and especially the countries which rely on their own people. All these are benefits, and if we make proper use of these benefits, we will be able to make up for the negative results of this movement and even make sure the gains outweigh the losses.

In any case, at the moment we feel we are moving towards a single-bloc system. The world is moving towards a one-bloc system, although it is the age of the nations and we, fortunately, are the forerunners in relying upon our own people, as you witnessed on 11 February, which was, in fact, a beautiful demonstration in our country and brought shame on those who thought differently. That demonstration showed the futility of a lot of analyses. Well, it seems this dominant bloc in the world—this is what I guess will happen—will lead to a situation in which it mainly will rely on economic and technical weapons and material capability for dominating the world. They may feel less need to continue their previous methods, such as coup d'etats and different types of acts of sabotage they resorted to in the

world, and the rest of their former tactics, except in exceptional circumstances. At the moment, they feel money is in their hands, they control the financial power of the world, they have the centers of technical power, and the countries that are not part of their satellites are to a great extent dependent upon them in their lives; they feel they have no rivals in the world any more, and that they can exert pressure from every point they wish, and will exert so much pressure on the enemy until he surrenders.

In fact, we are seeing some signs of this issue even now, even in the past month, which shows they will pursue such a policy; although in the capitalist world it is the nature of capitalism that the capitalists, even if they belong to the same bloc, will have to resort to competition. Agreement of all the capitalists to move together in a parallel line is something which is not a serious probability. It is possible that in the Common Market and in special groups—as you also witnessed happening during the past couple of years—their interest may demand they move together. But the nature of capitalism, their own needs, their needs for consumer markets, their needs for other things which are the necessary conditions of the present situation; all these also will deny them certain freedom of action. It will not be the case that everything would advance according to their plans.

We should not allow total pessimism in our thinking and should not think they will block all the avenues. During the war we noticed that under the worst conditions, when one was under such an embargo as was imposed on us, we succeeded in making use of the equipment we possessed, which had belonged to the Americans, despite the fact the Americans were our most serious enemies in the course of the war, and finally they even officially entered the war against us. We made use of advanced aircraft and advanced missiles, which are quite unique in the world. The nature of capitalism, nevertheless, is such that one can find many openings in it, and it will not happen that the world can impose all its wishes on us.

We must make plans, however. It means we should prepare ourselves, we should have plans, we should have scenarios, so we also can overcome that stage in a proper way. In any case, we feel it is possible that in the future, much more than in the past, they will exert economic, technical, and other forms of pressure, which they can exert on the countries that are not to their liking, whose system and whose movement they do not like; and we should pass through that stage the best way we can. One of the important countries of the world which successfully can pass through that stage is Iran. Through reliance upon ourselves, upon our human resources, our management skills, resources and our political experiences—all these capabilities that are at our disposal—as well as the links we have with the nations of the world and the capabilities we possess in the world, we feel it is quite practical for us to implement our plan. If we can carefully implement this plan, our situation at the end of the plan will be very different from our present situation, and we will be ready for our second plan, which will be an ideal stage for us. The experience of the war period and the period of economic embargo can be very useful for us and can help us in the future.

Despite some remarks that this plan is ambitious and so on, I deeply believe the plan has been drawn up in view of all these difficulties. We have paid attention to the fact we do not have a free hand in the world, that they are our enemies, and that they will not cooperate with us except for the sake of their own interest. This plan has been drawn up in view of all these factors. If a country with our capabilities and our strategic situation wished to make ambitious plans, it could make a plan more ambitious than this. If we were in a situation in which we were prepared to compromise with the arrogant powers of the world, we could have made this plan much more extensive, and perhaps we could take much faster steps. That, of course, also could produce negative results. I strongly believe, however, that what we have in this program is within our capabilities. We will be able to implement this plan with the capabilities we possess in our country.

It will require, however, collaboration, unity, friendship, determination, and the readiness of our people to accept hardships. We should expect our people to provide us with their support and with greater hard work and their spiritual readiness to get to grips with a period of reconstruction. Nowhere, in no country where reconstruction has taken place, has the period of postwar reconstruction been one of ease and comfort. That is impossible. Everywhere the period of reconstruction has been a period of hardship and greater hard work, but of course it depends on the extent of damage, the extent of needs, and the international condition one finds oneself in. If a country compromises with the dominant economic powers of the world, she is able to solve problems of reconstruction much more easily. If a country wishes to engage in reconstruction in an independent manner, the period of reconstruction is longer and the need for enduring hardship greater. This is a relative issue, and we cannot set a degree on it. It depends on the world conditions.

On the whole, our nation certainly should be prepared not to expect comfort in the meaning of plenty, or a balance between supply and demand in all fields, at least during the Five-Year Plan. In some sectors, we may move faster due to possessing domestic facilities, and in some sectors we may take longer. One good thing about this program is the plan has been drawn up in a balanced way so that one sector is not completely left out and another sector does not move forward fast. We should move forward in a balanced way and, God willing, this will be achieved.

What I now wish to say in this speech—which I am presenting to the gentlemen, which is also presented to our nation, so they may also informed of it—is we have thought of some important points in this year's budget. As they contain a lot of facts and figures, and as one

cannot speak from memory, I have written them down so I can read them to you. After this introduction, now I read you these parts.

The special features of the budget bill for 1369 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1990] are:

As was pointed out, the most important characteristic of the budget bill for 1369 is it has been drawn up within the context of the first economic, social and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [announcer announces short pause for change of videotape] The latest data available show there has been coordination between the forecasts in the first plan and the actual revenues and expenditures in the government's 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990] budget. Based on this information, tax revenue in the first 10 months of this year compared with the same period last year has shown an increase of 21 percent. This is despite the fact the taxes from the cooperatives have not been collected properly, but God willing, next year they will be collected better, and we have made preparations for it. The forecast of such incomes in the first 10 months in the first year of the plan indicated they will show 93.3 percent. [sentence as heard] This means we are about 1.5 percent behind our forecasts, but the situation in the 11th month is a little better. This situation referred to the 10th month.

Also, other government incomes in the first 10 months of the year 1368 compared to the same period in the year 1367 have increased nearly three and one-half times, and are within the forecasts for the first 10 months of the first year of the plan.

As for expenditure, the same trend also can be seen. Current expenditures, without considering the expenses for strengthening defense capability, in the first 10 months of the current year compared with the same period last year has shown an increase of 12.2 percent, and compared with the forecast for the same period in the first year of the plan, it shows the realization [as heard] of 95 percent. In other words, current expenditure has been underspent by five percent, but this should not be regarded as a negative point. We should regard it as a positive sign, because we have made savings. There, the income was less by 1.5 percent, but the current expenditure has been reduced by five percent.

The growth of development payments compared with the past year show an increase of more than 55 percent, and its realization compared with forecasts for the year '68 in the first plan has been 1.8 percent more. This means we are 1.8 percent ahead in our development plan. In our current expenditure, we have underspent by five percent, while in development, we have overspent by 1.8 percent, and this is a positive point.

The level of government borrowing from the banking system during this period has been 1.5 billion rials; compared with the same period last year, it shows a reduction of more than 37 percent. Yes, 1.015 billion. Yes, I said 1.015 billion, and this is within the limit of our forecast, and this is a good thing, because at the end of this year, we will not have to come to you again and ask you to allow us to borrow some more from the banks. In the past two or three months, the government has not had any difficulty in rial payments. In continuing these trends, efforts have been made so the figures in next year's budget bill will have sufficient coordination with the Notes; the side dealing with incomes and the side dealing with expenditure will be in keeping with the goals of the policies and figures given in the first plan.

Also, with due regard to the government objective to reduce the budget deficit, as well as borrowing from the banking system in the coming years, reflected in the framework of the first development plan and also amply endorsed by the honorable Majles, the said coordination in the case of the budget deficit in the year 1369 has been carefully kept in mind. It also has been acted upon. The ceiling you decided not to increase was observed by us, despite the fact that after the plan was drafted, we realized there were cases which previously were not foreseen in the column for requirements; anyway, we now have solved the problem in the plan, and you will see it in the budget.

Among other important characteristics of the budget bill for the year 1369 is the attention paid to the deprived and less developed regions of the country, which here I stress it really is a source of shame for the Islamic Republic. Of course, to be fair, the Islamic Republic, despite all the difficulties it has had, has paid more attention to the deprived regions than in the past. It must be said the slogan was kept in mind. But it would be a shame for us in the next two plans, after completion of the second plan, if we come to have such deprived areas, that is, the kind of deprivations which can be overcome. We really must place emphasis on it. The Majles lays more emphasis on this point than the government, because the representatives of the deprived regions are more aware of the difficulties of the deprived regions than we are. We grant you that right. Of course, based on the said Note, we have made plans. Yet, it may be neccessary to strengthen it more. If, in the budget debate, you decided to strengthen it within the framework of the plan, then I believe the government will not hesitate much. We really must pay attention to our deprived regions—which is one of the main, basic features of our policies and practices when drafting the first plan of the budget. Through surveys to study the deprived regions—which have been accomplished in a serious and practical way in the plan organization after the revolution, especially since the year 1362 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1983]—we have arrived at relatively specific results in the second phase of the sixth period. [sentence as heard] Many things now are clear to us. Based on these findings, lower productivity in the geographic sectors of the country, in 11 different economic and social fields, has been determined. Based on the same results, Note 5 of the Plan Law has been prepared. According to this, the government has been charged, during the duration of the plan, with raising the level of access to education, rural

electricity, rural roads, rural health services, and rural drinking water by 212 geographical districts of the country—described as deprived according to the said studies—to the level of access by other geographical sectors in the year 1368. This now is the base for us. In implementation of the contents of the said note, based on surveys carried out, during the lifespan of the plan, a total of 229.1 billion rials will be invested as follows: These are things for investment; that 230-odd billion rials will be for these same sectors which we said here:
Education: 90.6 billion rials
Health and treatment: 36.3 billion rials
Rural electricity: 21.8 billion rials
Rural roads: 80.4 billion rials

From the above allocations, whose distribution has been allocated on an annual basis during the five years of the plan, the sum of 40 billion rials has been allocated for the year 1369, next year. Of course, it is necessary to point out the above allocations are in addition to the allocations which, in the context of various economic discussions, will be allocated to various economic and social sectors in the course of the plan by giving priority to deprived areas.

The revenue forecast in the budget bill for the year 1369 is 4,009.7 billion rials, which shows an increase of 27 percent, compared to the forecast for the year 1368. Forty percent of the above sum comes from tax revenue, 27.2 percent from oil and gas income, and 32.3 percent comes from other revenues. In view of the forecasts within the context of the first plan, the tax revenue for the year 1369 has been forecast as 1,623.7 billion rials, which in comparison with the current year forecasts, shows a more than 41.1 percent increase. In this way, the percentage of tax revenue compared to the gross domestic product which, unfortunately, in recent years has shown a declining curve, will be increased from 4.5 percent in the year 1368 to 5.5 percent in the year 1369. This percentage, based on forecasts made in the first plan, up to the year 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993], the last year of the plan, gradually will reach 8.5 percent. Also, the percentage of tax revenue compared to current expenditure, which is one of the main indices of evaluating the financial situation of the government, will increase from 28.8 percent in the year 1367 and 35.5 percent in the year 1368 to 40.9 percent in the year 1369.

Tax revenue, both in view of its volume and its formation, has been improved, and the share of direct taxes in all tax revenues, which for the year 1368 is forecast at about 60.8 percent, will increase to 62.5 percent in the year 1369. In the same field, in continuing the policies of the government during the past few years in making the taxing system more just, the tax on professions [maliyate mashaghel] in the next year has been doubled compared with the forecasts for the year 1368; and the share of the taxes on professions compared to taxes on salaries will be 2.2 times more.

In the budget bill for the year 1369, the oil and gas revenue has been forecast at 1,089.6 billion rials, which, compared with the forecasts for the current year, shows a 21 percent increase. The important point which should be noted is that in the year 1369, for the first time in recent years, the gas revenue has been added to the total government revenues. The revenue forecast from this sector is about 20 billion rials. "This is a very conservative figure, but it could be more than this, because the industry is new for us. Therefore, we have been rather cautious, but we have greater hope for this figure." In view of the forecasts made in the first plan, it will show an upward curve next year and in the year 1372 it will increase to 43 billion rials. Also, within the context of oil and gas income, we shall have an income of about 30.4 billion rials next year from the export of refined oil products, which, compared with the figures in the current year, shows an increase of 123.5 percent.

Other government revenues in the year 1369 have been forecast as 1,277.7 billion rials, which although in comparison with the forecasts for the year 1368 shows an increase of 25.2 percent, however, in view of the mechanisms which have been forecast in the context of the first plan and next year's budget, it is hoped the aforesaid figure can be achieved. These were our revenues.

As for the budget allocation for public expenditure, the first concerns that of current expenditures; current expenditures in the budget bill of 1369—within the context of the first plan aimed realizing the targets forecast in that plan—have been estimated at 3,964.5 billion rials, which, compared with the forecast made for the year 1368, shows an increase of 15.6 percent. Regarding social sectors, comprising education—general, technical, professional, and higher education—health and treatment, and social welfare, they will take up the principal share of the increase in next year's current expenditures. Current expenditures of the above mentioned sectors in 1369 will amount to 1,853 billion rials, that is, 46 percent of the country's total current expenditures—We have placed greater stress on this, by conducting greater research to give greater attention to manpower—which compared with 1368 shows an increase of 24.03 percent—the current expenditures show a very high increase, since the starting figure was high, anyway, and the added 24.03 percent, here, makes it a very high figure.

Current expenditures pertaining to maintainence of the country's order and national security, which amounts to more than six percent of current expenditures, show an increase of 42 percent, compared with 1368. This has its own special reasons, which will be expounded later. With the omission of the above mentioned principal factors, next year's current expenditures will show a mere four percent increase, compared to that forecast for 1368. We separated these sectors to draw your attention to the fact we have not tried to increase executive and similar expenditures; the major increases in expenditure have been in the educational and manpower sector, as well as security, intelligence, and other issues in which we should strengthen our hold, a factor which in reality

reflects the continuing downward trend in those expenditures, in comparison with the fixed prices, which means if you consider the prices as fixed, our current expenditures have taken a downward trend.

As for development expenditures, the government's development credits for the year 1369 were estimated at 1,631.3 billion rials, which compared with that forecast for 1368, shows a remarkable increase of 60 percent... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani corrects figure] 60.2 percent. In the allocation of the government's development credits for the year 1369, preference will be given to the provision of essential investment resources, aimed at the creation of physical, education, and health facilities, the expansion of water and land resources, as well as the provision of infrastructure equipment, specifically communication requirements.

By the same token, there have been increases in the development expenditures of the education and training sector. Greater emphasis has been put on the development aspect to meet the existing shortages in the educational climate—154 percent; health and treatment 91 percent, technical and professional training 75 percent—these all have constituted our weak points, in the past—higher education 45.04 percent, agriculture 58.07 percent, water resources 88.03 percent, and roads and transportation 71.07 percent, compared with similar figures from last year—meaning 1368—which we hope to bring to fruition.

The share of the above mentioned sectors' development credits, as part of the total development credits allocated for the year 1368, was the equivalent of 45.07 percent, which will be increased to 56 percent in 1369. We have moved from 45 to 56 percent, which is an optimal growth rate for such things.

Regarding the budget for government controlled companies, banks, and government-affiliated profit-making institutions, in view of the clause stipulated in Article 2 of the entire country's budget law of 1368—within the framework of the first plan of the economic, social and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and the efforts of the relevant officials, government controlled companies and their budget structure—whether from a quantitative or a qualitative aspect—enjoy special peculiarities, compared with previous years.

1. [number as heard] The funds and expenditures of the government-controlled companies, banks, and government-affiliated profit-making companies have been estimated at 7,445.03 billion rials for the year 1369, which compared with a similar figure from last year, shows an increase for this year of 34 percent. They should play a positive role in the country's reconstruction.

In view of the special attention the first plan pays to the government-controlled companies and to using their entire capabilities and resources for realizing the aims of that plan, and also with the provision of the entire resources and capabilities of such economic establishments, the government-controlled companies in the year 1369—within the framework of the dividend aims [ahdaf-e bakhsi] of the first plan—will invest the sum of 1,472.8 billion rials—drawn from its internal funds and other funds through the use of the banking system—and that figure, compared with a similar figure from last year, shows a growth of 42.3 percent. From the aforementioned figure, 565.5 billion rials will be allocated with preference toward the use of the banking system.

The government-controlled companies' tax payments for the year 1369 have been estimated at 91.7 billion rials, and the interest gained on their shares, at 20.2 billion rials. Those figures, in comparison with similar figures from the previous year, show respective growths of 8.3 and 24.2 percent.

Agriculture: The development credits forecast in that sector for the year 1369 have been estimated at around 160 billion rials, which, compared with a similar figure from previous year, shows an increase of 24 percent. Around 40 percent of that increased amount is devoted to land and water related activities, around 107 percent [figure as heard] to agricultural and industrial activities, and around 103 percent [figure as heard] to research and investigation. The principal activities to be carried out within the framework of the aforementioned credits, are as follows:

Regarding water and soil activities, these include the consolidation of 150,000 hectares, equipping and reconstruction of 70,000 hectares, and the covering of traditional canals on a scale of 90,000 hectares.

Regarding activities concerning forests and pastures, these include the stabilization of sand dunes on 293,000 hectares, irrigation activities on 242,000 hectares, the construction of 400 km of forest roads, and the preparation of afforestation plans for 94,000 hectares.

Cultivation activities include the supply of 26,000 tonnes of mother seed for irrigated wheat, 145,000 tonnes of approved seed, weeding of 350,000 hectares, and fighting against aphids on 1.5 million hectares.

Water resources: In the context of the goals of the Five-Year Plan, by making use of the capacity which will be created, as well as utilizing 3.5 billion cubic metres of reserved water in the dams, priority has been given to construction of irrigation canals and major and minor drainage. In the program for the provision of water, in the year 1369 priority has been given to the completion of half-finished dams, while studies for starting new projects towards the end of the plan for providing water for irrigation and the production of hydroelectric power will be carried out.

In the projects for irrigation networks and drainage, in addition to the forecasts for allocations from government sources, which constitute about 60 percent of required funds, about 40 percent also will be obtained from non-governmental sources, which include the owners of those lands which are provided with public utilities.

Industries and mines: In view of the foreign exchange and rial allocations which have been forecast, the utilization of the productive capacities of heavy industries will be increased by at least 49.5 percent in the year 1369, compared with the year 1367. Fundamental work has been carried out to bring the production of the Sarcheshmeh copper complex to its full capacity, so in addition to providing for domestic needs, considerable quantities of the products of that complex can be exported to foreign countries. To provide for domestic needs, the present capacity of Arak aluminium industries will be expanded, and work for the construction of a factory with a capacity of 220,000 tonnes in Hormozqan Province will be started. Within the forecast allocations, projects will be started for the production of big pumps and water turbines, steam and gas turbines, big power generators, heavy diesel motors, heavy electric motors, oil, gas and petrochemical equipment, rolling plants, smelting, moulding and foundry machines. With implementation of the investment which has been forecast, projects for the discovery of coal mines in (Hok) and Eshkeli regions, the continuation of the work on Choghart iron ore mines, the continuation of work on (Miduk) copper mines, the equipping of the iron ore mine at Chenareh, and the expansion of coalmines in Kerman and Karsang will be completed and will reach production stage.

Commerce: To provide essential goods needed, it is estimated in the year 1369, about 10.4 million tonnes of goods will be imported to the country. To expand non-oil exports and achieve the goals forecast in the first plan, and to receive the foreign exchange earnings forecast in the first plan, rules and regulations for encouragement and guidance have been drawn up. Some of these should be sent to the Majles to be approved. The payment of foreign exchange to the exporters has been included in next year's budget. Plans for encouraging producers to produce competitive goods, facilities for the import and export of goods in this connection, and the adoption of policies for the sake of winning the cooperation of exporters are among the plans for next year in this sector.

Oil: The capacity of the production of crude oil on land and in the continental shelf will increase to 3.57 million barrels a day. This is a very good figure, and we should maintain our production capacity at the level of our OPEC quota, even a little higher. The export of oil products, including gasoline, naphtha, liquid gas and propane gas in the year 1369 will reach $407 million, a 123 percent increase compared with the forecasts for the current year. Operational activities on Arak and Bandar 'Abbas refineries will continue, and with the commissioning of these two refineries by the year 1372, the need of the country for importing oil products will reach zero. Operational activities on the second phase of Kangan refinery will start in the year 1369, and with the commissioning of this phase towards the end of the year 1370, 45 million cubic metres of natural gas a day will be added to the production of gas in the country.

Gas: The production of liquid gas in the year 1369 shows a 28 percent increase, compared with the forecast for the year 1368. The excess production of liquid gas will be exported. The level of the distribution of gas will show an increase of 42.5 percent, compared with the year 1368, and will reach the figure of 300,000 subscriptions. In the year 1369, about 830 km of gas main pipeline and 3,832 km of gas network pipes inside the cities will be laid, which, compared to the figures for the year 1368, show respective increases of 51 percent and 31 percent.

Housing and urban development: From the allocations which have been forecast, 5,424 housing units for workers and employees will be built or completed throughout the country, and 38 projects for the expansion and equipment of drinking water installations in various cities will be continued, while operations for 12 new projects in this field will be started. Operations for the construction of sewage networks for 50 cities will be continued, and the construction of sewage networks for six cities will be started. The construction of bridges on rivers passing through 12 cities and of five ring roads in five cities will be started.

Roads and transportation: From the allocations forecast in the budget, the construction of 1,800 km of new main roads, minor roads and rural roads, as well as the paving of 2,610 km and the improvement of 528 km of existing roads, will be carried out. The volume of the transportation of goods and passengers by the railways of the Islamic Republic will exceed 16 million tonnes of goods and 8 million passengers, and the improvement of about 150 km and the reconstruction of 125 km of existing track will be carried out. In air transport, about 5.5 million passengers on domestic lines and 940,000 passengers on international routes will be transported. The volume of marine transportation by the shipping lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be about 13 million tonnes of goods, to be carried by domestic and chartered ships.

Electricity: Within the context of the quantitative goals of the plan, in the year 1369, operational work for new power generators with the capacity of about 6,000 megawatts will be started. With the reconstruction of the existing power generators and by commissioning new generators, altogether 1,090 megawatts will be added to the power generating capacity of the country. If this is implemented in the way we have forecast, we will have no more problems in electricity, except at some periods of the year during the peak times. We should have no problem during normal circumstances, and God willing, it will be so. Within the context of the plan, the provision of electricity to 2,000 new villages has been made possible, and altogether, 500,000 new subscribers will be added to the existing subscribers of the power industry.

Post and communications: Some 300,000 telephone lines will be commissioned throughout the country, and steps will be taken for installing and commissioning 730 public telephone kiosks between cities and 4,500 in the cities. Telecommunication links will be provided

between 750 rural areas and 2,000 telex lines will be provided for subscribers throughout the country. Some 350 facsimile positions, 700 postal telephone positions, and 95 financial posts will be established. Steps will be taken for the dispatch and distribution of 350 million letters, 8 million telegrams, and 10 million telephone bills.

Educational—general and vocational and technical: The number of students at all levels in the year 1369 will be 14.06 million which, compared with the enrollment in the 'mehr of 68 [September 1989], shows an increase of five per cent, or 700,000. Drawing on the projected development funds allocated to building work, it is planned to continue work on construction of 16,670 classrooms. Work to build 222,000 new classrooms, meanwhile, will begin. Also, during the next year, work will start on construction of 10 new educational centers, 46 schools for exceptional children, and 17 teachers training centers. Activities of the literary campaign, together with what was added to their budget allocation, will expand further afield in the year 1369. Its budget allocation will rise by 45 percent, compared with that for the year 1368. There will be a growth of 9.3 per cent in the number of trainees for various branches of technical and vocational training—their number rising to 245,000 trainees. This is 200, or maybe 100? Is it correct? Also the number of trainees to be enrolled in the state training institutes will rise to 30,000. Drawing on the development funds under the heading of vocational and technical training, work has begun on building 40 new schools for services and arts, as well as 77 centers for arts training and 18 technical and vocational schools, as well as schools for training in agriculture and engineering. Also, work will continue on the establishment of 60 technical schools and centers for agricultural training and paramedical and dental cadre training.

Higher education and research: The number of university undergraduates and above in the year 1369 has been estimated at 227,000, which shows an increase of 5.5 percent compared with the year 1368. For the education of these undergraduates, as many as 1,500 new scientific teaching cadres will be absorbed. The total number of the scientific cadres in universities will rise to some 12,000.

The number of part-time students, with a 90 percent increase, will reach 28,000 in 1369. The figures mentioned are related to public education centers and public universities; non-public universities, the open university, and so on are, well, other figures will be added to these.

With implementation of the existing projects in the year 1369, it is estimated about 5,450 places of educational intake capacity will be realized.

In 1369, investment activity will commence for the establishment of three research centers: the international seismological and earthquake engineering institute, the center for chemical and chemical engineering research, and the Khorasan research institute.

Health and medicine: There is not a great deal left, you must be tired; there are about two pages left. Regarding establishment, equipment, and commissioning...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] How much longer?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Five, six minutes.

[Unidentified speaker] Because from the point of view of the internal regulations...

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani, interrupting] No more than five or six minutes are left. I, too, am well-versed about the regulations in the Majles. [sounds of laughter] We used to have a discussion here previously: When it was time for the prayers, some people used to insist we should suspend the session just at that very moment; we did not accept that. It will be finished in a moment.

Health and medicine: The establishment, equipment, and commissioning of 1,200 rural health centers; 280 urban and rural health and medical centers; 225 rural midwifery service centers and 1,700 hospital beds; five blood transfusion centres; and 1,500 projects for the provision of urban drinking water—all this will be acted upon.

The work for establishing 35 health centers; 185 urban and rural health and medical centers; 2,000 convalesence beds; 12 new hospitals with a capacity of 2,000 beds; and a piping and drinking water provision network will begin in 1,000 villages.

Operational work for implementing 33 hospital projects in deprived areas with more than 3,000 beds and the complete refurbishment of 5,000 hospital beds which have been started in previous years will continue in the year 1369.

Social welfare: support measures for 570,000 elderly people over 60 years of age in rural areas, bringing 360,000 families under the support services by the welfare organization and the Imam's Relief Committee, and support for 1 million refugees from the imposed war, and for the disabled and the families of the martyrs also will continue in the year 1369. From the development funds allocated to this sector in the year 1369, measures will be taken for the establishment of 10 complete welfare centers, 20 centers for housing and taking care of the disabled, 55 centers for support services, and bringing into service Martyr Beheshti's relief center in Hamadan, with a capacity of 200 beds.

Culture and information: In the year 1369, steps will be taken for the publication of 4.4 million copies of books for children and youth and the production of 1.15 million cassette tapes, 500,000 instructive amusement items, and 402,000 minutes of film [as heard]. Operational work for the construction of two children's libraries will be completed, and the work for the construction of three children's libraries and seven cultural and arts centers and complexes will be continued. Steps will be taken for broadcasting 11,814 hours of programs from the channels of Vision of the Islamic Republic of

Iran and 82,716 hours of programs from the networks of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These figures, compared with similar figures in the previous year, show respective increases of 19 and 11 percent. Steps will be taken for establishing eight IRNA offices in Abadan, Khorramshahr, Mahahad, Qazvin, Astara, Kashan, Zabol, and Karaj.

Physical training: To make necessary preparations, and for the necessity of the powerful presence in the Asian games in Beijing in the year 1369, the allocations of the Olympic Committee has been increased four times next year, compared with the year 1368. From the development funds allocated to this sector, 597 sports projects will be implemented throughout the country.

Regarding our administrative issues, which are our major work and our major tools for the implementation of the plan, we have asked all the ministers to identify the stumbling blocks they have in implementing their work and to identify the ways of improving their organisations, and the recruitment affairs organisation has provided very good programs for them. God willing, we shall start our work in the near future. We also will need the assistance of the Majles. We expect the honorable deputies and our dear friends to make every effort to ensure we will receive the budget, despite the great pressure which this short time will impose on them. God willing, in the course of the discussions which you shall have, you will make this budget stronger, healthier, and more effective. I have no doubt we will receive very good results from your discussions. God's peace and blessings be upon you. With many thanks to the speaker, the management board and the deputies of the Majles..

Pakistan

Minister Blames Nawaz Sharif for Sind Situation

BK2602113690 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 Feb 90 p 10

[Text] Islamabad—The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan, has taken serous exception tc the wild and scurrilous statement made by IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] at Karachi on Friday [23 February].

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Malik Ahmad Saeed Awan said that IJI Chief was responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in Sind. He made an issue out of non-issue by staging a first public meeting in Karachi and then used the occasion to issue a strike call by the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] which resulted in massive killings of innocent people. He said that whenever Mian Nawaz Sharif visited Karachi, an outburst of violence followed.

Mr Awan said that ever since the PPP was voted into power, the stooges of the dictatorial regime were trying to overthrow the elected Government. They used the MQM for the fulfillment of their nefarious designs by creating law and order in Karachi so that the IJI could accuse the PPP Government of neglect.

Mr Awan said that IJI Chief was bent upon disintegrating the federation of Pakistan. Frustrated at his defeat in NA [National Assembly]-89 election, he was trying to undo the democratic process by flaring-up the situation in Sind through frequent visits to Karachi and hurling baseless accusations against the PPP.

Malik Awan said the IJI has followed a policy of character assassination of the PPP leaders in a bid to incite the people against the elected Government. But IJI can never succeed because the people of Pakistan have bitter memories of Mian Nawaz Sharif in office when he supported martial law, mass-scale suppression, Press censorship, ban on political parties and students and labour unions, Mr Awan said. Referring to IJI Chief's accusations that PPP was supporting the Sindudesh [Land of the Sindis] activists, he said that the IJI Chief was trying to divert the attention of the people from the fascist policies pursued by him in Punjab to perpetuate the reign of tyranny by making such insinuations. He expressed the hope that nefarious designs of IJI Chief to destabilise the democratic process would be foiled by the people of Pakistan.

Mr Awan said that the statements of Mian Nawaz Sharif and his comrade in disintegration of Pakistan, Mr Altaf Hussain, were an open invitation to ethnic hatred which every Pakistani repudiates. He said Mr Altaf Hussain has fought with almost every ethnic group in Sind one by one including the Pathans, the Punjabis and the Sindis, since the IJI was encouraging the dismemberment.

UN Asked To Honor Pledge for Kashmir Plebiscite

BK2702033890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has again urged the United Nations to prevail upon India to end its repressive policy in Kashmir and honor its commitment to allow a plebiscite to enable the people of the disputed territory to determine their future. The special envoy of the prime minister, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, during a meeting with UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar in New York yesterday said the world body and the secretary general himself had the responsibility to promote a final settlement of the Kashmir dispute on the basis of United Nations' own decisions. Mr. Akhund briefed the UN chief on the current situation in occupied Kashmir and said the struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination was indigenous and Pakistan in no way was involved. He expressed the hope that the UN chief would play a role in preventing further worsening of the situation and extension of the conflict.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], quoting UN officials, said the UN secretary general told Mr. Akhund that he was aware of developments in occupied Kashmir and he was monitoring them carefully. The

special envoy was accompanied by the Pakistani observer at the United Nations, Mr. Naseem Ahmad, and the deputy UN representative, Mr. Shaukat Omar, while the UN secretary general was assisted by his top aide, Mr. (Gionne Picko).

Paper Says U.S. To Object to Nuclear Plant Deal

BK2602131190 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 Feb 90 p 1

[By Nusrat Javeed]

[Text] Islamabad—Some of the Ambassadors, attending a briefing held by the French envoy on Saturday afternoon [24 February] for the EC diplomats regarding President Mitterrand's visit, expressed apprehensions that USA might launch a hectic campaign against the France-Pakistan deal on the nuclear power plant.

One senior diplomat, present at the briefing, rather confided to THE NATION that "some of his very intelligent colleagues were not ruling out manoeuvring of the events Benazir's father was to face in '77 for stubbornly sticking to his nuclear ambitions".

Another West European Ambassador claimed that "Bob Oakley (the US Ambassador) is sending angry vibes already." According to "my information", "Bob did not turn up at the dinner hosted by Mitterrand on Wednesday." The same source insisted that Oakley was also missing at the Islamabad International Airport when VIPs lined up to send Mitterrand off on Thursday morning. Our source felt that "Oakley is offended because he did not seem to have been told in advance about the deal".

But, sources from Pakistan's Foreign Office insisted that "none of us was hopeful that Mitterrand would clear the deal even hours before its maturing". US State Department had already reacted negatively and many hostile lobbies are being activated in Washington and other European countries against the proposed deal.

The intensity of apprehensions could be realised from the fact that on Friday rumours were rife in various Western capitals that Pakistan's Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, was "shot dead by some officers wanting to take over".

The Paris Bureau Chief of US wire agency made incessant phone calls to Islamabad. He pressurised high information officials to contact Secretary Shahjehan S. Karim in Karachi to "confirm the news". "It is nonsense," Secretary of Information is reported to have said, "I have come back only minutes ago from the place Prime Minister is meeting people since morning."

Diplomatic sources believed that "Bush might delay signing of the document immunising Pakistan from the law barring USA to provide aid to country suspected to be indulging in a clandestine nuclear programme. Since 1981, American President have to commit in writing that Pakistan was not making a nuclear bomb to facilitate the annual release of funds from the US aid package to Islamabad.

Our sources apprehend that "some powerful European countries could join the US in wanting to block the deal". It was generally assessed by them that a crucial donor like "West Germany, where Greens are quite a force to reconcile with, may side with the Americans". The Germans are already having some suppressed disagreements with France since falling off the Berlin Wall.

The German diplomats and political commentators are not very discreet to claim that to preempt the emergence of a unified Germany as the most powerful European power, "the French President was playing games". In Europe, he is suspected, by Germans, to be sponsoring Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to resist the resurrection of Germany in a collective manner.

"Similarly, he (Mitterrand) took cunning initiatives to establish himself as the nicest guy for the Third World for the purpose of sustaining an exclusive and godfatherly image for France in the post-World War period."

But, most of our sources were also of the opinion that being a strong leader, "Mitterrand could not be persuaded by Americans to back out". At the same time, some of our diplomatic friends were of the opinion that "French have to have markets for their nuclear manufacturers surplus".

USSR Considering Request for Nuclear Plant

BK2702075790 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Feb 90 p 1

[DAWN Islamabad Bureau]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 26: The Soviet Union is considering Pakistan's request for supply of a nuclear power plant, Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr V.P. Yakunin, said on Monday.

He told journalists, after presenting an award to Maulana Abdus Sattar Edhi at the Soviet Embassy, Pakistan needed nuclear energy for its power needs and once the required guarantees were provided, there was no harm in supplying power plants.

The Soviet Ambassador also disclosed that Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Dr Tanvir Ahmed Khan, would be leaving for Moscow on March 11 and, among other things, would discuss a visit by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Moscow.

He said the Pakistan Foreign Secretary would be "having consultations" with Soviet officials, specially on the Afghan problem.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will visit Moscow shortly after Dr Tanvir's visit, the Ambassador said.

In answer to a question about the Afghan issue, Mr Yakunin said Pakistan had told the Soviet Union that it was considering the 10-point Soviet plan for bringing peace to Afghanistan.

"We take this as an important sign," the Ambassador said. "The plan can be amended but the main purpose is to stop bloodshed, set up a negative symmetry and allow all the groups in Afghanistan to negotiate and decide their future," he added.

Mr Yakunin said Pakistan had not officially informed the Soviet Union about its readiness to let Afghan President Dr Najibullah continue in power during the transition period.

"We have heard about it and read it in the Press, but Mr Iqbal Akhund did not say this to Soviet officials during his recent visit to Moscow," the Ambassador said.

Mr Akhund reportedly said in Washington that Pakistan was prepared to allow Najibullah to continue.

Asked about Kashmir, the Soviet envoy said his country wanted a peaceful political solution on the basis of a dialogue between Pakistan and India based on international agreements, such as the Simla accord.

When pressed whether his country would again use the right of veto if Pakistan raised the matter at the United Nations, Mr Yakunin said: "This question is premature. You have not as yet decided whether to take the issue to the U.N. But let me tell you, the Soviet Union abstained when the Kashmir issue was voted upon in the U.N. in 1948."

Asked to comment on the French decision to sell a nuclear power plant, the Ambassador said Pakistan needed energy and it had provided the guarantees to France.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for USSR Visit

BK2502103890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] The speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, has said that the visit of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union will strengthen the existing relations and help furthering cooperation in different fields between the two countries. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today before his departure for Moscow as a head of a 10-member parliamentary delegation on a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union.

The speaker said the visit is significant as it is taking place when Pakistan is trying to strengthen democratic process in the country. Similarly, in the Soviet Union, a (?correct) process of changes in social, economic and cultural fields has been ushered in after the restructuring program. This will afford an opportunity to the members of the delegation to exchange views with the Soviet leaders on matters of mutual interests.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Human Rights Report

BK2602144990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Syed Nazir Bukhari commentary: "Unfounded U.S. Allegations"]

[Text] On the human rights issue, the U.S. State Department has released a report in which groundless allegations have been leveled against Pakistan. The government of Pakistan has taken a serious exception to the observations in that report. The immediate reaction from the government of Pakistan is fully justified because accusing Pakistan of promoting discrimination on the basis of religion is a bitter pill which nobody in Pakistan is prepared to swallow. No doubt, Pakistan is a country where the majority of population is Muslim. But the religion they uphold is totally against discrimination of all kinds. As a matter of fact, world historians admit that Islam's acceptance and its rapid expansion owes greatly to its concept of the equality of human rights and its rejection of all kinds of discrimination. This being the case, no Muslim government in Pakistan is able to accept the charge of being discriminatory against its minorities. If an impartial study is made of the events of the last 42 years, it will show that the majority community in Pakistan has never initiated or supported any action detrimental to the political or economic interests of the minorities in this country. If, on this (?account), the record of other countries is examined and a fair comparison is made, Pakistan would emerge as a distinct country having a commendable record of good treatment of its minorities.

So, the spokesman of the federal government justifiably termed as baseless the contents of the report regarding discrimination to Ahmadis, Christians, and Hindus. The spokesman said that the majority can go to the judiciary just as well as the minority, and that the judiciary in Pakistan was free and all citizens were equal before the law. As such, if there is any injustice done to the Ahmadis or the Christians, they are free to approach the courts of law. But on the contrary, there was a complete harmony among various segments of the society and so the report is nothing but an attempt aimed at maligning the people of Pakistan.

Similarly, allegations regarding the control on the press were also without any basis. Had the press not been free, it would not be published in the State Department report on the human rights in the first place. [sentence as heard] The fact is that the press in Pakistan is free to the extent that it can be favorably compared with media anywhere in the world.

The Pakistani Government has also contradicted the contents of the report regarding the treatment meted out to political prisoners. The government affirms that there was not a single political prisoner in Pakistan and there has not been one since the present government came to power. It seems that while compiling the report, free and reliable information has not been collected. The

spokesman of the government of Pakistan therefore described the report as a classic example of disinformation. The report has alleged that the Christian community cannot build churches in Pakistan. Nothing can be farther from the truth. The actual position is that the minorities in this country have enjoyed fair deal and legal rights and there has not been any hurdle whatsoever on the construction of their places of worship. They enjoy opportunities for employment and also hold high positions in the state apparatus. Any member of the minority community showing talent and capability can claim and get a comparable position. Hindus and Christians occupy high positions in the civil services of the country. They are also well represented in the national and provincial assemblies.

Recently, the archbishop of Canterbury came to Pakistan from England. The way he was received and welcomed in Pakistan reflected the true feelings of Pakistanis which they have for any minority religion as well as its members and recognized personalities. During his stay in Pakistan, the archbishop never spoke of any discrimination against the minority communities.

Perhaps, the compilers of the report were not interested in any in-depth study of the question of majority-minority relationship in Pakistan and were content with giving a perfunctory report. Studies such as these not based on facts can hardly achieve any purpose which they try to project. So a timely rebuttal of the report is therefore fully in order.

Envoy to Delhi Supports Dialogue on Issues

BK2602155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Bashir Babar, the Pakistani high commissioner in New Delhi, has said he is confident that Indian-Pakistani differences can be and should be resolved through negotiations, which is in the interests of the people of two countries. This will also have a positive impact on regional and international peace and stability. In an interview to a Hindi weekly [name indistinct], he said the Simla agreement is still effective and provides a framework for normalizing bilateral relations, and it has clearly acknowledged the Kashmir dispute as an outstanding issue.

The high commissioner added that if India and Pakistan adhered to their commitments under the relevant UN resolutions, there is no reason why the Kashmir problem cannot be resolved.

Army Chief, PRC Defense Chief Exchange Views

BK2702023490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] The chief of Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, exchanged views with the visiting Chinese defense minister, General Qin Jiwei, in Karachi yesterday on matters pertaining to cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. Later, the chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hakimullah Khan, hosted a banquet in honor of the Chinese defense minister.

Earlier, Gen. Qin Jiwei visited Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum and laid a wreath.

Army Chief Returns From Week-Long Iranian Visit

BK2402091290 Lahore THE NATION in English 23 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Rawalpindi, Feb 22—General Mirza Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff, flew back home here tonight after a week-long official visit to Iran.

On his arrival at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Base, Chaklala, the Chief of Army Staff, was received by Corps Commander, Lieut [Lieutenant] General Imranullah Khan, Chief of General Staff, Lieut [Lieutenant] General Shamim Alam Khan, and senior Army officers.

During his visit to Iran, General Mirza Aslam Beg called on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and met Commander of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] forces, Mr Mohsen Reza'i, Commanders of the Sepah [Forces] of Land, Navy and Air Force and those of the Regular Forces. He had fruitful and positive talks with all these dignitaries.

The luncheon and dinner speeches spoke of the warmth, fraternity and brotherly relations existing between the Armed Forces of the two Muslim countries.

During his stay in Iran, General Beg also visited cities of Ahvaz, Esfahan and Abadan and inspected various military institutions and defence industries of Iran.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Leader Demands President's Resignation

BK2402095690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 24 (AFP)—A Tamil leader Saturday [24 February] demanded the resignation of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne for what he called their "failure to maintain law and order."

Northeastern Province Chief Minister A. Varadaraja Perumal said Mr. Premadasa, who also holds the post of defense minister, and Mr. Wijeratne, the junior defense minister, "are not doing their duties properly."

Speaking by telephone from the provincial capital Trincomalee, Mr. Perumal said the lawlessness was not limited to Tamil areas. He claimed violence in Sinhalese-majority areas had killed 10,000 people since June. "If they cannot protect the life of even a prominent journalist, what to talk about others," he said in a reference to the abduction and murder Sunday of a Sri Lankan

correspondent for the Rome-based INTER-PRESS SERVICE, Mr. Richard de Zoysa.

He said several Sinhalese politicians had complained to him of the lack of law and order in their areas, and he vowed to moblilize their support for the resignation of Mr. Premadasa and Mr. Wijeratne.

Mr. Perumal, a leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which controls the Northeastern Provincial Council, is himself under increasing pressure from the government and the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to resign to pave the way for fresh provincial elections.

He said Mr. Wijeratne's charge Thursday that there was no law and order in his province was "misdirected." "There is no law and order because the (central government) has not devolved police powers to the provincial administration," he said. He accused the government of trying to divert attention from the main issue of devolving powers to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority and of encouraging Tamil militant groups to fight among themselves.

Mr. Perumal said the LTTE was "politically innocent" and they should take care that their ongoing talks with the government did not land the Tamil people in a "trap."

Mr. Premadasa told a LTTE delegation here Thursday it was his aim that all communities in Sri Lanka enjoy equal rights, a government statement said Friday. "He reiterated his determination to replace confrontationist method with conciliatory approach," the statement said.

Mr. Premadasa was apparently trying to ally fears that the pull-out of Indian troops deployed in the north and east would lead to clashes between the security forces and the LTTE. The Indian troops, deployed under a July 1987 peace agreement which sought to end Tamil separatism on the island, are scheduled to be withdrawn completely by March 31.

The LTTE delegation was headed by Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah, better known as "Mathya," deputy leader of the Tigers and head of their political wing.

EPRLF Conditions for Agreement Hinder Peace

BK2602164490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Madras, India, Feb 26 (AFP)—An Indian Tamil politician's bid to bring peace to Sri Lanka's Tamil areas suffered a serious setback Monday (26 February] when a key group put down hard terms blocking his mediation efforts.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which rules the island's Tamil-majority northeast, said the conditions should be met before it would agree to a dissolution of the provincial council proposed by Muthuvel Karunanidhi as a way to peace.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant Tamil militant group and a bitter rival of the EPRLF, has demanded the council's dissolution followed by fresh elections.

Conditions brought by the EPRLF included amending the Sri Lankan Constitution to make external affairs a provincial subject, a move that observers said would be unacceptable to both Colombo and New Delhi.

The EPRLF said it was also opposed to fresh elections to the Northeastern Provincial Council before March 1991 and wanted an interim government to administer the region until then.

Abu Youssuf, transport minister in the provincial government who led an EPRLF team to talks with Mr. Karunanidhi here Monday, said India should recognise an independent state of Tamil Eelam in the northeast if Colombo did not accept the demands.

He said the EPRLF had asked the Indian politician to take up the demands with the Tamil Tigers and "others," including New Delhi.

Mr. Karunanidhi, chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu State designated India's mediator in efforts to end bitter internecine fighting in the northeast, virtually conceded defeat.

The 19 conditions brought by the front Monday and released to reporters here included:

—A second chamber of Parliament should be set up with equal representation for all ethnic groups to safeguard the rights of minorities.

—Colombo should contribute 20 percent of the 550 million dollars pledged by foreign donors for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Northeastern Province. The money should be deposited with the provincial administration.

—A separate province should be created to house upcountry Tamils.

—The Northeastern Provincial Government should have legal rights equal to those enjoyed by the private sector in establishing and maintaining economic institutions.

—External intelligence agencies run by Israel, Britain and South Africa should be asked to halt operations in Sri Lanka and be expelled.

—The Prevention of Terrorism Act currently operative in Sri Lanka should be done away with.

—The Army should be removed from Fort Frederick in Trincomalee where a Tamil temple is located and the area declared sacred. The Army should also be removed from the Jaffna Fort and the Kayts Sea Fort, which should be converted into museums.

—The ethnic ratio should be maintained in enrollment to security forces, including the Army, to ensure adequate numbers of Tamils in the Sinhalese-dominated units.

Indian Forces Confined to Specific Areas

BK2702093090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0858 GMT 27 Feb 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian Peacekeeping Force's [IPKF] Northern Command has confirmed that their troops have been withdrawn from the Jaffna area on the 25th of February and is now confined to Palaly, Kankesanturai, Kesamalai, Myladdy, Atchuveli and Vasavilan, states a government communique issued today.

The communique also said that there had been no new arrivals of Indian troops to Sri Lanka and that 250 IPKF personnel had left Trincomalee to India yesterday.

13 Youths Shot Dead in Matara District 24 Feb

BK2602060990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 26 (AFP)—Thirteen unidentified youths were shot dead in southern Sri Lanka Saturday [24 February], a Colombo daily reported Monday.

The English-language paper THE ISLAND said the incident occurred at the village of Weniyakula in Matara District. It quoted villagers as saying that the youth were shot dead on the Matara-Kamburupittiya Road and their bodies set on fire on the spot. The report did not identify the killers.

THE ISLAND had reported Sunday that Sinhalese rebels of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] ambushed and killed an Army officer and a soldier in Matara on Friday. The rebels burned the bodies after removing two pistols and two grenades from them, the paper said. It was not immediately known whether the two incidents were linked.

A military spokesman here said the local police had confirmed seeing some bodies in the Weniyakula area, but could not give details.

Reprisal killings by the rebels on the one hand and the security forces and anti-rebel vigilante groups on the other were common in the area, but there had been a marked fall in such incidents since the elimination of top JVP leadership in a series of successful security operations since November. Thousands of people had died across the island as the security forces and the rebels, seeking to overthrow the government, fought savage battles over the last two years.

Paper Views Peace Efforts of Tamil Nadu Chief

BK2702103490 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Peacemaker in Tamil Nadu"]

[Text] Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muttuvel Karunanidhi has been talking to the various competing Tamil political groups in Sri Lanka, continuing the peacemaking task assigned to him by Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh. The latest reports from Madras said that the chief minister was hopeful about forging a permanent truce. All Lankans hope that Mr. Karunanidhi's efforts will succeed.

There is no getting away from the fact that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are now the dominant players in the north-east theatre; and the Tigers know this very well. While Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal and his EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] would like to wish the Tigers away, once the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] troops finally leave at the end of March, the LTTE will call many of the shots in the area that the IPKF are vacating.

It is necessary that the Tigers do not overplay their hand. Although they have fought long and hard to achieve their objectives, they must remember that they were not able to overcome the might of the Indian army, however many soldiers they killed or wounded in the long-drawn-out guerrilla war.

The Tigers came to the conference table in Colombo because they felt the heat of the Indian military action.

It was also logical, as President Premadasa patiently explained over a very long period of time, that the people of Sri Lanka resolved their own problems without the intercession of third parties from outside our shores.

The LTTE must appreciate that the IPKF are leaving Sri Lanka not because of the guerrilla war that the Tigers fought, but because of the demands of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka, as well as the proprieties of relations between nations.

While the LTTE, no doubt, command considerable support, particularly within the Jaffna Peninsula, the Tigers cannot claim for themselves the total support of all the inhabitants in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Other groups, too, have their own loyalists; and the LTTE would understand better than anybody else the need for mending fences and ensuring peaceful co-existence.

Some members of the EPRLF, in particular, have already sought refuge in Tamil Nadu. According to reports from India, around 3,000 Sri Lankan Tamils are now in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu. All these people are not necessarily political refugees; there are many who are more likely to be economic refugees. Nevertheless, it is necessary that conditions are created when no Lankan—Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim or anybody else—is afraid to live in any part of this island-home of ours.

The LTTE want the existing North-East Provincial Council dissolved and fresh elections called. Mr. Perumal once favoured this, but he has since then altered his position. Mr. Perumal knows very well that the majority of the people of the North-East did not vote at the last provincial council election. The major reason for

this was the LTTE's desire that no election be held. But, with conditions changing, a free and fair election is what is most wanted.

Although Mr. Karunanidhi has not spelled out his peace plan, it is clear that a new election is very much on the cards. The LTTE are on record calling for international observers to watch how the polling is conducted.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne has said that no elections will be held as long as anybody, except the legitimate authorities, bears arms.

Mr. Karunanidhi's position, that there is no armed struggle and that a peaceful and democratic polity functions in the North-East, coincides with the desire of the people who live in the troubled areas, and, indeed, all Sri Lankans wherever they live.

Tamil Nadu has for long wielded considerable influence over the various Tamil militant groups. When such influence is being used to make peace, not war, all Lankans will not forbear to cheer.

Police Seize Heroin, Other Contraband in Colombo

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["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—The police narcotics bureau today seized Rs. [rupees] one million in heroin, gold jewellery and cash and arrested two youths at a lodging house at Dam Street in Colombo's commercial centre, Pettah.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that preliminary investigations reveal that 400 grams of No. 1 quality pure heroin had been smuggled into the country from the Indian sub-continent.

They also seized 100 grams of gold jewellery, Rs. 300,000 cash and a number of forged Sri Lankan passports and identity cards.

Police said the two youths who hail from Point Pedro and Kokkuvil in Jaffna had arrived in Colombo on a motorcycle which has also been seized.

Police said that the two youth belonged to the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] group of militants who are now engaged in large scale smuggling of contraband.